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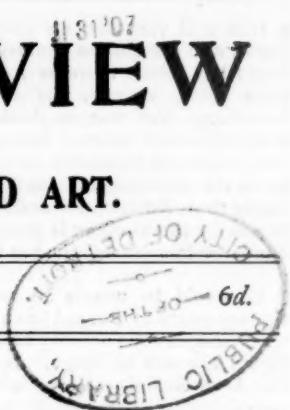
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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications: and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The adoption of the American proposal by the Committee at the Hague Conference to exempt belligerents' merchant vessels from capture at sea will only make more apparent the futility of the Conference. Great Britain will decline to be bound by the decision. A majority of those actually present at the Committee voted in favour of the proposal; but the one naval Power of any importance voting with America was Germany, and Germany only with reservations. Great Britain, France and Japan were all on the other side. With such a minority against such a majority the plenary Conference will never adopt the decision of the Committee.

This was so much the most important matter for Great Britain at the Conference that we learn without being greatly impressed that Sir Edward Fry is to bring forward the question of limitation of armaments. It seems after all that Great Britain is to be the only Power that cares enough about it to bring it forward; the United States have backed out of it, and Sir Edward Fry is to lead the forlorn hope. But all the delegates of the Powers immediately they heard of the proposal began to find reasons for putting off the discussion; they had no instructions from their Governments, and so on. Sir Edward Fry does not intend to raise the question at the next plenary meeting of the Conference. What seems likeliest is that he will bring it forward at the last sitting; and the Conference cannot do less than register another "vœu" similar to that passed by the first Conference.

More important than the unreal proceedings of the Conference is the definite fact that Venezuela has refused to pay the £400,000 awarded by the Hague Arbitration Court to the Belgian creditors. How is the award

to be enforced? There is no international force and Belgium is just in the same position as if there had been no award. The moral effect of an award we are often told would be sufficient. Venezuela is evidently not worrying about that. She is not afraid of Belgium and so she shuffles. If the United States were her creditor she would submit; but in that case she would have submitted without arbitration. But suppose the States or Germany in Venezuela's place, who is going to enforce the award then? It all comes back to strength in the long run.

Somewhat tardily the Belgian Government have decided to seek Parliamentary sanction to take over the Congo Free State, and the terms of transfer are now being considered. It is hoped that the Annexation Bill will be laid before the Chamber this year. Major Lemaire, who was to be one of the Congo representatives on the Anglo-Congolese Boundary Commission but was rejected at the last moment on the ground that the Congo authorities intended to prosecute him for cruelty to the natives, has been writing his memoirs. They serve to throw a flood of light on the conditions prevailing in the Congo Free State. Major Lemaire himself apparently was driven to flogging in the interest of discipline, but he never attempted to disguise a necessity which he describes as sickening. The real reason no doubt why his appointment to the Commission was cancelled was that he was among the severest critics of the whole Congo régime. As the Congo authorities have taken no steps against Major Lemaire there is no other conclusion to be drawn. He believes that if King Leopold saw things as they are, and was in a position to compare realities with what he fancies them to be, much good would result.

The United States Government is naturally—and rightly—keeping the affair of the Japanese spies as quiet as it can. No information is given; but it is pretty clear that more than one Japanese have been caught making military sketches. All countries, of course, furnish themselves with this sort of military intelligence about other Powers, and no one thinks of fighting over it. But America is not in the mood now to take things good-temperedly. The incident would be of no account were there not behind it

a true and very serious cause of difference between Japan and the United States. Little things never make war ; but when there is a real cause of difference, a little thing may be the occasion of the storm-cloud bursting. Not that we think immediate conflict likely, nor in the near future. Meantime a communiqué, ostensibly from the President, denies Mr. Metcalf's statement as to the movement of the fleet. None the less it seems likely that American warships will go to the Pacific. Japan for the moment is preoccupied with Korea, whose Emperor has just abdicated in favour of—Japan.

It would be unsafe to assume because the revolutionary party in Bengal have been less in evidence that their mischievous activity has diminished. Their leading lights are still at large. In the Punjab the leaders of the Arya Samaj—among whom Lalla Lajpat Rai was prominent—have issued an unconvincing manifesto that their organisation is entirely non-political, and declare it a misfortune that the Lalla and his fellows have been “suspected of unconstitutional agitation”. Sympathisers with sedition at Westminster have also been less obtrusive. Mr. Keir Hardie however on departing for the East has announced that as a result of a fortnight's tour in India he hopes to make his 300,000,000 downtrodden fellow-subjects understand that they have his party on their side. Incidentally, of course, he expects to let a little light in on the dark places of Indian government.

Apart from a few picturesque details of Kaid Maclean's daily life, nothing fresh has come to hand concerning the position of Raisuli's prisoner. The report that he had escaped was not likely to be true. Raisuli realises too keenly how much depends on his hostage to run the smallest risk of losing him. There is rivalry between the parties in propitiatory sacrifice. When the Kaid's friends offer up a sheep Raisuli goes one better with an ox. On the whole it would seem that the smaller sacrifice is carrying the greater weight with the tribes, the Sultan's anxiety to secure the Kaid's release being thrown into the balance. Raisuli's invitation to his prisoner to take part in a boar hunt was declined. The Kaid's acceptance of Raisuli's previous invitation was hardly an encouragement to the enjoyment of his further hospitality.

It seems likely that the schoolboy riflemen will have a chance of “shooting their grandmothers” after all. Lord Esher—whose sudden appearances on the scene in public life and disappearances from it remind one of Harlequin's—induced Lord Portsmouth to restore, if falteringly, the cadet corps scheme of Mr. Haldane which the Labour M.P.s and Radicals succeeded in removing from the Bill. By Lord Esher's amendment, the County Associations will be able to assist the schools out of money collected voluntarily. Lord Portsmouth accepted this half-rifle. But he was not confident that the House of Commons would approve his conduct. How will the Radicals and Labour peace-at-all-hazards men like the notion of shooting grandmothers on voluntary instead of State ammunition?

Monday's tariff debate—the vote of censure—was not especially brilliant. It was a good thing, however, formally to mark one party's disapproval, at any rate, of the Government's attitude to the colonies. The Premiers, who went away rebuffed, will note that Unionists say the same things in the House as they said out of it. Ministers were very touchy on the point of their alienation from the colonials : no wonder : it is very damaging to them : for it means the Liberal party here on one side and the rest of the Empire on the other. In this debate the weakening of the Ministerial position by the plain declaration of the colonial offer at the Conference and by Mr. Lloyd-George's admission of the immense gain to British trade from the preference already granted by the colonies was apparent. On the Unionist side there is now a virtual identity of view. A handful of members, typified in Lord Robert Cecil, voted for Mr. Lyttelton's motion, with a difference. But it is clearer than ever that the Opposition is a Tariff Reform party. Mr. Balfour, as he has so often done before, declared him-

self—almost passionately—in favour of preference, but against protection.

For strong full-bodied jingoism we have never come across anything better than one of Mr. Churchill's periods—his speeches are getting terribly periodic ; we liked him better in his flippant insolent days—Liberals, said Mr. Churchill, “valued the British Empire because they thought it was the model of what they hoped the whole world would some day become.” Well, we are pretty stiff Imperialists ourselves, but may we never live to see that day. The whole world on one pattern, how deadly dull ! But how British and how Liberal an attitude it is ! Send all the world to a Board School and make them good British Liberals. There is our earthly paradise.

How little the man in the street who knows everything knows of the inner economy of a great Government office ! At the Conservative Club on Tuesday Lord Salisbury, unveiling a portrait of his father, unveiled also to some extent the working of the Foreign Office. If a Foreign Secretary happens to be one who cannot restrict himself to the control of general policy, the detail he is called upon to master is inevitably distracting. His duties are multifarious as foreign interests themselves, and diplomacy abroad is not his only concern. Varying schools at home have to be conciliated. Advocates of an aggressive policy in the interests either of Great Britain or of some other country vie with those who regard British intervention on whatever pretext as a grave wrong to herself. *Civis Britannicus sum* on the one hand : peace at any price on the other. Not the least of a Foreign Minister's difficulties is to avoid wearing his triumphs on his sleeve. His failures will be proclaimed loudly enough. Lord Salisbury's father always said that to boast of success in foreign affairs gave the other side an idea that Great Britain had gained too much and made diplomacy more difficult in the future.

We are inclined to agree with Lord Ribblesdale and the Lord Chancellor that the protests on Lord Camperdown's motion last Monday against throwing all the session's legislation at the House of Lords to be discussed at the fag-end would have been more effective if taken off party lines. Lord Lansdowne proved the Government guilty ; but that is really an incident in this question. From the Lords' point of view every Government is guilty on this head. There is really but one difference between the two parties in the matter ; that in Unionist days Bills went through Committee of the whole House, whereas now they are pushed through in the obscurity of Grand Committees. This does make it a more serious offence to curtail adequate discussion in the Lords. But it is after all a minor point in a big matter, which is a House of Lords matter, not a party one. Liberal peers like Lord Ribblesdale evidently feel this. The House would do well to assert itself and decline to be rushed : but it is undeniably difficult for Unionist peers to do this for the honour of their House, as it were, with at all a good face after allowing themselves to be rushed by all Unionist Governments. Lord Loreburn was of course right in saying that the cause of the mischief was the inability of the House of Commons to do its work ; but it is an odd reason for penalising the House of Lords.

It is well that Mr. McKenna's tricks are to be shown up in the House of Lords. Lord Londonderry will have an easy task. He has but to state the plain facts for it to be seen that Mr. McKenna is trying to do in a crooked way an injustice which Mr. Birrell, to give him his due, tried to do straightforwardly. It is a dirty trick, which no public man of any calibre should touch. But a small man in a big office delights in it. These mean practices seldom pay, and this Government will find it out. County Councils should make their protest too. There would be some humour in the objection to their doing this that it is their business to administer, not to make, law. Precisely Mr. McKenna's offence. He is making law by administration.

May not the Small Holdings Bill be one day named the Evicted Labourers Bill ? In the House of Lords

on Tuesday Lord Hill drew attention to the displacement of labourers which the Government Bill might cause, and Lord Carrington admitted that the matter was being "earnestly discussed" in "every village". It is an irony almost exquisite that the grand back-to-the-land programme should begin in this way—an irony, that is, to the detached outsider whose living does not depend on farmwork. Lord Carrington said that a sum of £389 had been paid to the thirty-nine labourers who had been dismissed at Burwell when the small holdings experiment was begun. Ten pounds is no doubt a nice little bit of capital for a farm labourer to get for solatium—especially if he does not lay out about half of it at once in beer, which he is perhaps not quite so unlikely to do as might be supposed. But Burwell was Crown land. It is open for a Minister no doubt to experiment, not only with Crown land but with Crown capital. Is it proposed that whenever a County Council is girdled into a small holdings scheme, each of the farmworkers displaced by the experiment shall be given ten pounds?

If this is to be done, the ratepayers of the country may be thankful indeed to Mr. Cave, who by his amendment the other day succeeded in throwing the loss through any small-holdings experiment on to the general public. And suppose nothing is to be done for the farm labourers thrown out of work through this small-holdings measure—in this case surely the thirty-nine Burwell men will have been unduly favoured? Why should dismissed men on Crown land get a present of ten pounds a head if dismissed men on other lands are to get nothing? Lord Lansdowne put the thing well when he said: "The danger is that in making this experiment we may inflict an amount of hardship upon those who are now on the soil out of all proportion to the advantage derived to the new small holders whom we are creating."

Much the same might be said of the Evicted Tenants Bill which was discussed in Committee on Tuesday. These tenants were evicted because they had unconscientious objections against paying their rents. They wanted their farms for nothing, and were egged on by the political agitators to pay nothing; that is the simple truth of the matter. By the experiment Mr. Birrell is bent on, these restored tenants will displace a class of men who succeeded them and in many cases have done well with the land and have paid a fair rent. The idea is to present these men in the light of tenants who are not "bona fide". Naturally they are not bona fide from the point of view of the Land Leaguers, because they have paid an honest rent. The Unionists continue to oppose the Bill—Mr. Campbell so strongly that Mr. Birrell agreeably describes him as "dishonest".

The party that wants to liberalise the Bench is up in arms once more. A hundred and fifty Liberal M.P.s are discontented with the Lord Chancellor and are to memorialise him again. It seems that he is still suffering Lord-Lieutenants to appoint Conservative landowners to the county bench, when there are "gentlemen" holding Liberal views who are qualified. We think the hundred and fifty had better not use the title "gentlemen". It is invidious. A great authority defines "gentleman" as "a man of gentle birth or having the same heraldic status as those of noble birth; properly one who is entitled to bear arms, though not ranking among the nobility; but also applied to a person of distinction without precise definition of rank". Now if this authority is to be accepted, it is surely idle to pretend that there are plenty of gentlemen in every county constituency holding Liberal views and qualified for the Bench. The great bulk of this class, everybody knows, is Conservative. If the hundred and fifty protesters wish the Lord Chancellor largely to appoint working men to the Bench, why do they not say so outright?

Mr. Hugh C. Lea has been cuffed by his leader with great spirit for his indiscretion. He has the pleasure of hearing that his action is improper, unseemly, and unworthy. Sir Henry takes a pretty revenge. He glows over the independence and purity of Mr. Lea's fellow Liberals who take and pay the party funds, and they purr as they hear him, and then he dismisses Mr. Lea as

being really too vague and irresponsible a person to merit his charges being inquired into. Mr. Lea wilted. He went off on the entirely different question of the sale of peerages and such things. That is a clear enough case and the most important; but it happens not to be the point. The "Adulterated Peerage" is a fact: the coercion of subsidised members of Parliament is a supposition not incredible. But Sir Henry was too sage to have Whips and members of his party put in the box to prove it. He would have been more indiscreet than Mr. Lea. The light touch was needed, and he applied it.

Colne Valley adds another to the growing list of Labour wins. This result is not surprising, but it will be none the less unwelcome to official Liberalism. The constituency was held for Liberalism during fifteen years by Sir James Kitson and considered so safe that at the last general election there was no opposition. The Socialist candidate heads the poll with a majority of 153 over the Liberal, who secured only 268 votes more than the Unionist, roughly half the normal Liberal majority in the past. It will be interesting to see how these continued successes affect the Government in their relations with the Labour party.

Mr. Lever M.P. and the "Daily Mail" came to "a working arrangement" on Wednesday. As a result £50,000 are transferred from the paper trade to the soap trade. No wonder a great gathering of Port Sunlight workers took holiday to celebrate the result of the libel action. Let us hope they will handsomely benefit by this splendid windfall, which is enough to make the mouth of the Chancellor of the Exchequer water. When ordinary people bring an action for libel they get, if they win, some such miserably little sum as a hundred and fifty or two hundred and fifty pounds; but in a soap libel is indeed a king's ransom.

Is there any political significance in the case? We ask because whilst practically all the leading Liberal and Radical journals "leadered" the result—with a note of scarcely suppressed joy—the Conservative daily and evening papers, in London at any rate, were silent. Can this be a mere accident? It seems incredible. Anyhow we must all congratulate Mr. Lever on clearing his character. And at the same time we can congratulate the Liberal party on having such wealth on their side. In 1905 the profits of "Sunlight" were three hundred and sixty-seven thousand pounds, or over a thousand a day including Sundays. "A nice little sum," Mr. Rufus Isaacs called it, though Mr. Lever pointed out that he made a larger profit on his capital when he was in the grocery line. These figures are interesting. Mr. Burns, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Keir Hardie and others who think that no man has a right to have more than—what is it?—£500 a year should take note. The money is not all on the other side in politics. So long as mustard, cocoa and soap are faithful to Liberalism, it ought never to be pressed for funds.

The debate on the Home Office vote was more interesting than satisfactory. The Home Secretary, whose idea of an introductory statement is good, was able to take credit to himself for an increase in the factory inspectorate, but he had to admit that there was a serious increase in the number of anthrax cases. Then Sir Charles Dilke pointed out that there was also an increase in lead-poisoning; the actual figures being 632 cases against 519 last year as stated by Mr. Herbert Samuel. This is most disappointing after the efforts that have been made to stamp out this peculiarly horrible disease. Sir Charles Dilke very rightly criticised the apparent slowness of the Government offices to adopt the use of leadless glazed pottery. It certainly does seem unfortunate that two of the inspectors should throw cold water on the movement in favour of leadless glaze. The difficulty of the ordinary buyer is to know whether he is being imposed on or not. He may ask insistently for leadless glazed china; but how is he to know whether what is shown him does really contain the minimum of lead? for apparently no glaze is completely leadless. We were very glad Mr. H. J. Tennant, whose work on dangerous trades is well known, snubbed Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's ignorant attack on University men as inspectors.

The Report of the Committee on Woolwich Arsenal shows clearly that for supplying military stores much more work could be done at Woolwich than is done there at present. There is even less in some departments than there used to be. The Committee have considered the question whether the Arsenal might not also make articles of a non-military character. They show that the plant is adapted for this purpose; but they think there is no need to go into the question of extraneous work. Potential work for the army and navy to the value of over £700,000 might be given to Woolwich even if only one-third of the miscellaneous orders were allotted to it.

Costly plant lies idle which might be utilised. But the Committee also point out that it is only by utilising it in peace time that the country can look with any confidence to possess in an emergency a body of workmen of sufficient number and with sufficient training. To make excessive reductions is to run a risk of failure from an excessive influx of strange and unskilled labour. Then the important suggestion is made that if there were loss on this system of keeping up the staff for emergency it should be borne as a separate charge by the State.

This report distinctly implies that a sufficient staff for war emergencies should be kept up at Woolwich beyond what is needed in peace time under the present system. But the report of the departmental officials on Government Factories which appears contemporaneously adopts the opposite view. It objects to this emergency staff even for supplying Government needs and much more for supplying the open market. The objection to interfering with private enterprise is prominent; but we believe public opinion will support the first rather than the second report.

Whatever were the intentions of the members of the Commission on Church discipline, they have certainly succeeded in stirring up an unpleasant controversy. This has arisen from the fact that they took it upon themselves to discuss abstruse theological points, which it was the express desire of the person chiefly responsible for their appointment, Mr. Balfour, that they should avoid. We think that the Bishop of Oxford's letter should reassure High Churchmen. It is a pity however that his Lordship did not make his explanation some time ago when the Bishop of Birmingham made his protest against the false theological deductions of the report. It is natural that Lord Halifax and Mr. Riley should feel anxious.

We note that the Highways Committee of the London County Council are submitting estimates to the Council to enable an experiment to be made with the G. B. surface-contact system for the tramways. Those who have seen the system at work know how much better it is than that of the cumbrous and unsightly overhead wires. It is in use in Lincoln and some other places; but we know a locality in Yorkshire where they proudly imagine their G. B. system to be the only one installed. The route on which the London experiment is to be tried is from Bow to Aldgate, where horse-trams are in use at present. The essential feature of the proposed system is that the electrical energy is obtained by the contact of skates fixed under the cars with studs in the surface of the road. But why is this preferred to the excellent system working on the trams between Aldwych and Highbury?

If it is a fact that the Vandyke which the National Gallery has bought was taken out of Italy illegally, the position, we must say, will be embarrassing. This is a matter which does not seem to have been made clear so far. It ought not to remain for long in the slightest doubt. We had far rather not have the picture if its possession by us is a just grievance to Italy. True, we have the Elgin Marbles; and indeed a very large number of our national art treasures came from foreign countries; but they were not taken from a friendly foreign nation in defiance of its law. We do not say that this has been done in the case of the National Gallery Vandyke portrait, but it is being talked and written of here and in Italy as if it were a matter of doubt. We hope it will be absolutely cleared up, one way or another, very shortly.

THE TRAFFICK IN TITLES.

THE exposure of abuses committed by one's friends is a perilous, if a pleasant, task; and Mr. H. C. Lea bids fair to be the best-hated man in the House of Commons. But it is not the business of reformers, any more than of the primitive Christians, to be agreeable, and we applaud the member for East S. Pancras, with certain reservations. For many years past the SATURDAY REVIEW has denounced the shameful selling by both political parties of the highest honours in the Sovereign's gift. What is called, in the grave and respectful language of our Constitution, "the fountain of honour" had become, under successive political turncocks, a dirty spray of dishonour, and it was high time that public attention should be called to the matter. With the luckless Scottish knight who was useful to the Prime Minister at elections, and who was director of a company that supplied the Navy with a defective rudder, we need not concern ourselves. He had done more to deserve a title than many who have received peerages, and he has served Mr. Lea as a peg on which to hang a very important constitutional question. For with all respect to Mr. Speaker Lowther, we do not for a moment admit that the Prime Minister is not responsible to Parliament for the advice which he gives the Sovereign in the matter of honours and rewards. The Prime Minister is responsible to Parliament for everything which he does and says. It is true that the granting of titles is theoretically the peculiar privilege of the Crown, and that the Sovereign is not bound to ask, nor the Prime Minister to give, advice on that subject. But if the Prime Minister does advise the Sovereign to grant a title, he is clearly responsible for his advice to both Houses of Parliament. We do not know why the House of Lords, for its own protection, has not before now called upon the Prime Minister to explain his advice to the King in the matter of peerages. Why should the British aristocracy allow impecunious party Whips to thrust into their chamber scandalous journalists and Jewish money-changers? How is the prestige of the House of Lords to survive creations like those of Wandsworth, Michelham, and Northcliffe? Two Sterns and a Harmsworth are a severe strain upon the patience and respect of the British nation. We have written before and we repeat that the two Sterns, the first of whom was added to our "old nobility" by Lord Rosebery and the second by Mr. Balfour, have never rendered any discoverable service to the nation, filled any public situation, or done any splendid action in the field of philanthropy. They do not even draw their wealth from any trade or industry beneficial to England: as their money comes from "agiotage" or money-changing between London, Frankfort, Paris and Amsterdam. As for that illustrious baron, "the right honourable the Lord Northcliffe", he has amassed a fortune by yellow journalism of the American type. His paper was responsible for the "Pekin massacre", by which thousands of worthy people were plunged into misery. The "Daily Mail" did a roaring trade: the nation was on the eve of holding a memorial service at S. Paul's: when it was discovered that the "Daily Mail" had not told the truth—that was all. This same noble person, who sits cheek by jowl with the baronage of England, has just been fined £50,000 at Liverpool for what is admitted to be one of the most serious libels that ever disgraced the English press. Luckily Mr. Lever was as rich as "the right honourable the Lord Northcliffe", "the trusty and well-beloved cousin" of the King! We dwell on the cases of these three individuals, because it is so very obvious that no Prime Minister, Tory or Liberal, would have advised the Sovereign to place a coronet on their brows except for cash down. The question is how much did these noble persons pay for the privileges of sitting in the same room with gentlemen; of saying "Content" or "Non-Content" to the Lord Chancellor; and of being called "my lord" by their servants? To whom did they pay their cash; and what was done with the cash so received?

These are the questions to which Mr. H. C. Lea demands an answer; and we hope that he will persevere in his quest, undeterred by frowns and obloquy, and

unabashed by the conspiracy of the two front benches to hush the matter up. The responsibility of the Prime Minister for advice given to the Sovereign is a point of constitutional law which the Speaker of the House of Commons is no more competent to decide than any other member of that body. The Speaker is the servant, not the master, of the House of Commons. As Speaker Lenthall said to Charles, "I am the eyes and ears of the House; and can say or do nothing save only as the House commands me". The point of privilege raised by Lord Robert Cecil on Monday seems to us of quite secondary importance, and was probably only brought up as an "Opposition point". Mr. H. C. Lea had stated that the money obtained by the sale of honours was paid into the party funds, and paid out for the assistance of candidates at elections. Everybody knows that many candidates get part of their election expenses paid by the party in whose interest they are fighting, and we can see nothing objectionable in the practice. It is right and well that the richer members of a party should subscribe to a fund, out of which the poorer members should receive assistance. This is an immemorial practice, and perfectly legitimate, unless the door of the House of Commons is to be shut on all but rich men and their sons. The Duke of Devonshire and Lord Fitzwilliam paid the expenses of Charles Fox over and over again. Lord Rockingham and Lord Verney paid Burke's expenses. Would Mr. Lea have excluded Burke, and Sheridan, and Fox, and Pitt, because they could not pay their election bills? The suggestion that members, who receive part or the whole of their election expenses, become "slaves", and "corrupt", is wholly false, and argues great ignorance of the world. We entirely believe the Prime Minister and Mr. Balfour when they assert that no pressure to vote has ever been exercised upon members by the Whips upon that ground. No one who knows anything of the interior of the House of Commons would credit such an insinuation for a moment, and Mr. Lea made a great mistake—not of taste alone—in alleging it, as we think he sees by this time. For he has given the two front benches the opportunity of evading a true charge by denying a false one. We do not mean that a gentleman who lays himself out for the rôle of the candid friend could receive assistance from the party chest. We think, for instance, that if Mr. Thomas Gibson Bowles had been helped to foot his election bill, the Whips would probably have reminded him of the fact. But the House of Commons is composed, in the main, of gentlemen: and the disloyalty must be very gross, and the insubordination very persistent, before a man is reminded of his pecuniary obligations. It would be better, of course, if every member were able to pay his own expenses; but in the present condition of things the cost would exclude some of the most valuable legislators. We do not know, by the way, why some of the constituencies do not take a leaf out of the book of the Labour party, and subscribe to pay the expenses of a candidate whom they wish to return. That would be honourable both to those who subscribed and to him who was subscribed for. As matters stand, the first qualification for a candidate is cash. We feel certain that no one knows better than Lord Robert Cecil that anything like a charge of corruption against members of Parliament is so absurd as not to be worth noticing. There will continue to be party funds, out of which aspirants "vex'd by want of pence" will continue to receive cheques. That is as it should be. What we strongly object to is the replenishing of these funds by the sale of peerages to the unworthy. Knighthoods and baroneties do not so much matter; they are mere ornaments, like a riband. But a peerage is a political status, conferring amongst other trifles the right of making or hindering laws. Is it true or is it false that the peerages of Michelham and Northcliffe were sold for so much cash down? and did the cash go into the war-chest of the Conservative party? We have heard this allegation strenuously denied by official Conservatives; and we hope the denial is justified. But then who did receive the cash? For that these peerages were conferred from a sincere belief in the public merits of the recipients or from any other than mercenary considerations is plainly incredible.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL FAILURE.

THE striking feature of the Tariff debate was the revelation it gave of the growing solidity of the Unionist party on the question of preference, the sharper lines of cleavage between Unionists and Liberals on imperial affairs, so far as Liberals are represented by the Government, and the willingness of Ministers to sacrifice the Empire to their own incompetence in organising the groups which make up their majority. Some of the Liberal papers said that Mr. Lyttelton's motion was a vote of censure, not upon the Government, but upon the electorate for returning the Government to power. This implies that one amongst the many mandates of the Government was to refuse the requests of the colonies in the form in which they were made at the Conference. But responsible Liberal leaders carefully refrained from saying that the issue of the General Election was whether the United Kingdom should accept or refuse the offers of the colonies. They denied that there were such offers. They always represented that it was Mr. Chamberlain who initiated the movement either for purely party purposes or, as his more generous opponents alleged, from a mistaken view of the needs of the Empire. In view of their attitude before and during the General Election, Ministers cannot fall back on the theory of the mandate to justify or excuse their action during the Conference. They must meet the criticism of the Opposition and, later on, of the electorate with a defence based on the facts of the situation they had to deal with, unless they are prepared to say frankly that self-preservation and not the security of the Empire is the first duty of a Liberal Government.

How then do the facts support the Government? When Mr. Chamberlain was engaged in his campaign, Sir Edward Grey said preference was not the way to consolidate the Empire; the right course was to establish first an Imperial Council; this council would naturally have a trade committee; and to this committee trade questions, including preference, would be referred. The Conference has shown how entirely mistaken Sir Edward Grey was in his diagnosis. These fine proposals for an Imperial Council were reduced to the establishment of a secretariat to the Conference under the control of the Colonial Office. Another suggestion much favoured by some members of the Government was that we should give the desired preference by subsidies to the transport services. They were greatly attracted by this suggestion in the form in which it came before them, and went far in the expression of their approval. At one time it looked as though Sir Wilfrid Laurier would really get his "all-red route" from this Government which considers itself pledged to an academic Cobdenism. But the Liberals were so long in opposition that they forgot that generalities and electioneering platitudes cannot be made the basis of practicable schemes. So they managed to give the impression that they were in favour of the "all-red route" before instead of after they had considered the details of the scheme or sounded their followers. Mr. Lloyd-George, with his strong prejudice against free trade and his impulsive desire to seize every opportunity, except by the introduction of a tariff, to upset the present system, is the worst offender against Cobdenite prudery. But this Government repudiates one of the fundamental maxims of orthodox economics, for with them the marginal utility of the vote of a supporter increases with the size of their majority. They have to defy the extreme Cobdenites and the Labour men, before Sir Wilfrid Laurier's scheme can be adopted. Even if it is adopted it affects passengers, not goods, so that the Conference has disposed of the alternatives to preference. The Liberal Imperialists were understood, on the strength of their own declarations, to have many other schemes for consideration. But they have not yet produced them; four years have passed away and they are still thinking. Nothing is to be expected from them. Lacking the moral courage to act in accordance with their convictions, they adopt the policy of "permeation", and as long as the Government has a large majority they will no doubt imagine they are pursuing this policy with success. When the

majority breaks up they will think it is their duty to "permeate" the Unionist party. They had a great opportunity at the Conference of producing their alternatives. Since they did not produce them, most people will conclude that they have no suggestions to make except such as would prove unacceptable to their Liberal colleagues.

Then as to preference. The Liberal leaders denied that there was any Colonial offer, but the fact of this offer was established beyond all doubt both in the Conference and by other speeches of the colonial Premiers. Hence if the Government secured a mandate from the country, as they say they did, they secured it on false pretences. Some Ministerialists say the offer is not good enough. But that is for the people, not a Government so elected, to judge. Moreover the plea that the offer is not good enough will not serve, in view of the admissions of the Government. As Mr. Balfour pointed out in the debate, the official memoranda laid before the Conference and the speeches of Ministers admitted the great benefit derived from existing preferences, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Deakin and the other colonial representatives said they would go farther in return for reciprocal advantages. The Government said they could do nothing. The colonies replied that they would be content at this stage if only the Government would grant a preference on existing duties. Moreover the position of the colonies throughout the Conference was, not that we should revolutionise our fiscal system with the special view of giving them a preference, but that we should give them a preference in respect to duties now or hereafter imposed. This is the principle adopted first by Canada and then by New Zealand and South Africa.

It is in their reply to this request of the colonies that Mr. Asquith and his colleagues are especially open to censure, for they could have done much to meet colonial wishes without the violation of any pledges. We may grant that the Government could not in any circumstances have introduced the scheme of preference identified with Mr. Chamberlain, which, without imposing duties on raw materials, has been shown to be most effective for the purposes in view, equitable in its incidence on the various parts of the Empire, and entirely in accord with the aspirations of the self-governing colonies. The Government are certainly pledged against a corn duty and what they think is a "general" tariff on manufactures. But they are also pledged to promote "free trade", and it cannot be pretended that we have free trade at the present time. By this we do not mean, what is often and rightly said by Tariff Reformers, that the system of free imports here and high tariffs everywhere else is inconsistent with the assumptions of the free-trade economists. We can wait for a Tariff Reform Government to remedy these unfair conditions. But free trade would avoid (1) bolstering up backward and inefficient industries; (2) hampering by a tariff system the establishment and development of industries for which the country is suited; (3) burdening and hampering industry generally by a system of duties which raises the cost of living of the working classes. Our present system hardly satisfies even the first test, for the cocoa and chocolate manufacturers, to mention no others, now enjoy an unfair advantage. Under the second and third tests the present system breaks down hopelessly. The duties on alcohol, sugar and tobacco have operated to our great disadvantage both in industry and agriculture. Mr. Asquith seems to think it is a sufficient answer to say that our present Customs duties are imposed for revenue only and that they are balanced by an excise. But the wine duties have on more than one occasion been rearranged for other than revenue purposes, and that there is no violation of free trade so long as the Customs duty is balanced by an excise is a novel theory, very convenient for Chancellors of the Exchequer who want money, but with no solid economic foundation. Our present duties enormously increase the cost of living; they are, as Mr. Balfour has pointed out, at "preposterous" ad valorem rates; and under present conditions of men's expenditure, which must be taken for granted, they impose a heavy burden on women and children. The Government are pledged to reduce these duties, and are not pledged against the inclusion of

luxuries, not at present taxed, in the list of dutiable articles. Why then did they not meet the colonies and gratify the working classes by reducing the duties on articles at present dutiable when imported from British possessions, and providing fresh revenue from new duties on the luxuries of the well-to-do?

We do not believe in the sincerity of their excuse that to adopt this course would be to introduce the "thin end of the wedge". After all, they stood to gain by gratifying Imperial sentiment here and in the colonies, if they could do so without any serious breach with the free-trade system. The downright Little-Englandism and anti-colonial views of the Cobden Club are not shared by the great mass of Liberals in the country; the Labour party would not have voted against a scheme for reducing existing duties and obtaining fresh revenue, if it had been taken up by the Government, merely on the ground that it consolidated the Empire; and the Nationalists are all Tariff Reformers. The Government probably looked into existing duties and found that the arrangement of a preference would land them in complications with certain foreign Powers, and, having no policy, they could not proceed on this course. They have no doubt examined the question of new duties on motor-cars, for instance, or silk manufactures, and found that they have not the information on which they could select or graduate them. They had already ruled out the easiest line of advance, a moderate revenue duty on corn and other agricultural produce, by their pledges and their misrepresentations in the country. So they shut themselves up to doing nothing.

CROATIAN HOME RULE.

M R. GLADSTONE once appealed to the Croatian Constitution as a model for the Parliament which he proposed to set up in Ireland, and there were many critics who considered his Home Rule Bill of 1893 as the embodiment of the principles which had been laid down in the compact of 1868 between Hungary and Croatia. The Ban was the equivalent of the Irish Viceroy, the Executive Council was formed by the Secretaries for the Home Department, Education, Public Worship and Justice. Croatia was to send fifty-two members to the Hungarian Chamber, subsequently reduced to forty, and these forty were only to vote when Imperial matters affecting the entire Hungarian kingdom and Croatia were under discussion. This similarity of the two Constitutions was alleged to be based upon analogies existing between the two countries. The proportion of the population of Croatia to that of the whole of Hungary was in 1891 12·6 per cent., whilst that of Ireland to the United Kingdom was 12·49. The connexion of Croatia with the Crown of Hungary dated from 1091, when Koloman, King of Hungary, set up his nephew Almus as King of Croatia under guarantees that the old Croatian Constitution should be preserved by the new King and his successors, whilst the connexion of Ireland with the English Crown dated from 1172. Beyond this Croatia consists of two nations and religions in the proportion of three to one, the Catholic Croats forming the majority and the Greek Orthodox Serbs the minority. Mr. Gladstone therefore in more ways than one took Croatia as a model for Ireland, so it is interesting to see how far the model has proved a success. Whether Hungary at any time ever conquered Croatia or not, or whether it was a voluntary union between the two countries, based on the understanding that Croatian rights and privileges would be preserved, it is enough that in 1750 the Constitution was suspended and Croatia embodied as part and parcel of the kingdom of Hungary. Later on Croatia had her revenge; for in 1848 her Ban Jellachich marched at the head of the Croatian army to help Austria to incorporate the whole of the kingdom of Hungary into the empire. In 1867 Austria handed over the Croatians to the mercy of the Hungarian Government, who however in 1868 entered into the pact which has since then formed the basis of the relations between the two countries, though not without endless controversy. The Croatians have complained that their wealth was exploited by Hungary,

who spent but a small proportion of the taxation levied upon them for their profit and advantage. In 1883 Hungary was compelled to send troops into the country to quell a threatened rising and to appoint an Austrian general to the office of Ban or Governor. Ten years later a movement directed against Hungary by a party which had its confederates in many a foreign country was only suppressed by the draconic measures of the then Ban and his Executive Council, by the confiscation of newspapers, the prohibition of meetings and Government pressure at elections. Many leading Croatians gave up the struggle in despair and placed themselves at the disposal of Hungary, seeing no way out of the difficulty as long as the Liberals remained in office. The younger politicians thought they saw a chance when the present coalition between the Independence and Constitutional parties was formed. A formal alliance was concluded and the Hungarians made lavish promises to the Croatian representatives. It is as yet uncertain what was their extent; but there can be little doubt from the words of M. Polonyi, who negotiated on behalf of M. Kossuth and Count Apponyi, that they were as lavish as they were imprudent. The Croatian question has now once more come to the fore, and Englishmen can therefore gauge the success of a Constitution which has perhaps as many points in common with Mr. Birrell's ill-starred Devolution Bill of 1907 as with the Home Rule Bill of 1893 as originally introduced.

One of the worst evils of Home Rule lies in the opportunities it opens up for constitutional deadlocks, and the compact of 1868 between Hungary and Croatia illustrates this. There can be no question that by this compact Croatians were entitled to insist on their language being made the official language of all great Hungaro-Croatian State institutions, and they argue that once the Hungarian State railway passes through Croatia it comes within this provision of the compact. Hungarians reply that it is not an Hungaro-Croatian State institution, and that its servants, who are in the employment of what was a private commercial enterprise which is now managed by the State, cannot be regarded as State officials. Underneath these two arguments there are, however, questions of principle. The Croatians of course talk of the thin end of the wedge. They have seen how successful Hungary has been in Magyarising her German and Jewish populations and how active she is, though not so successful, in promoting the Magyarisation of Roumanians, Serbs, Slowaks and Ruthenians. She therefore fears that if Magyar is made the language of the State railway, it will in time become the language of all State institutions in defiance of the compact of 1868. On the other hand Hungary wants access to Fiume, her only seaport, by which alone she can secure direct connexion with foreign markets, and has some reason to fear for this connexion if her State railway is not a purely Magyar institution. M. Kossuth is much blamed, even by members of his own party, for raising this question, which might have settled itself, and carrying it by main force as he has done. He has passed into law by Ministerial ordinance the States Railway Bill, which provides amongst other things that none but Hungarian citizens knowing Magyar can be employed as railway servants in the land of the Hungarian Crown, and that knowledge of the Croatian language is only to be required in Croatia and Slavonia from those railway servants who have dealings with the public and with the local authorities. The whole Bill of fifty-eight clauses was met by the most persistent obstruction on the part of the forty representatives of Croatia in the Hungarian Parliament, who exercised to the full the right conferred upon them by the Hungarian Constitution of addressing the Chamber in their own native tongue. It would probably have occupied many months to pass the whole Bill through Parliament clause by clause. M. Kossuth has had recourse to more drastic methods and has been censured even by members of the Independence Party for what he has done; for it was in protesting against such a policy on the part of the Liberal majority that the Hungarian Chamber was wrecked less than three years ago. As it is, a great constitutional issue has been raised and this at a time when the Hungarian Government needs

all the support it can secure. The Magyars do not form a majority of the people of Hungary. Roumanians, Slowaks and Serbs are asking for more recognition, and the working of universal suffrage will not be at all easy.

It is impossible to foresee the result of the struggle. Count Pejacsevich, who in June 1903 succeeded Count Khuen-Hedervary as Governor of Croatia, has tendered his resignation and will, it is rumoured, place himself at the head of the National movement, which is all the more important as he has hitherto been regarded as a friend of Hungary. His successor, M. Radocay, the President of the Croatian Appeal Court, is a pronounced Hungaro-Croatian Unionist and has a difficult task to fulfil. The Croatian deputies who represented Croatia in the Hungarian Parliament belonged to that Supilo party which was regarded as most friendly to Hungary, the men who had supported the Coalition and wished for a union with Hungary on the basis of the Fiume Resolutions. They have now withdrawn from the Parliament at Buda Pesth and, with the one exception of Bishop Drohsbeczky, have joined the more independent members of the Starčević party in protesting against the unconstitutional action of the Coalition Government. The new Ban will probably dissolve the existing Croatian Diet which had been summoned to meet on the eleventh of this month, but has been adjourned sine die. As it is, all parties are preparing for the forthcoming general election, when the Ban will endeavour, possibly without success, to secure the return of a more favourable successor by Ministerial pressure and even by more extreme measures. The situation is intensely acute and must develop within the next few weeks. In the meanwhile English and Irish Unionists can study with interest the collapse of another of those many examples of Home Rule which Mr. Gladstone was so fond of offering to the admiration of the civilised world.

THE POSSIBLE RAILWAY STRIKE.

ANOTHER stage has been reached in the dispute which appears too likely to end in a conflict between the railway companies and their servants. Mr. Bell on behalf of the railway servants' union has now written to all the railway companies a letter containing the terms agreed upon by the men at their conferences. In the forefront of these is the fundamental article that the railway companies shall recognise the officials of the union. If the dispute goes on owing to the companies refusing to enter into negotiations with the union officials, the drop in the prices of railway shares which has already caused so much anxiety will be insignificant in comparison with what may be expected. Since the railway servants held their conference at Birmingham in November last all the steps have been taken by the men. The companies may be said in sense to have washed their hands of the business after refusing to permit the intervention of the officials of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in any disputes between them and their employees. Mr. Bell's description of what has happened so far is that the companies have shown no hostile feeling, and that the men on their part are conducting the movement on friendly lines. But none the less the men persistently move on to the goal of a general strike on the railways if the companies make the same response as they have already made to the men's demands for the recognition of their union and its officials. The programme of demands which was drawn up by the first Birmingham conference was submitted to the great meetings of railway servants held in London and other towns in May last and approved. A second conference was afterwards held at Birmingham to consider what should be the next step after this programme had been approved by the men whom the delegates represent. As we have said before, the terms of the programme have not yet been discussed. They may be reasonable or unreasonable, but that is not the question which has so far arisen. All that is known is that the men have through their union put forward certain proposals for alteration of the terms of service in wages and hours, and that the companies decline to discuss

these proposals with the men who, as the agents of their workmen, have drawn them up. All the discussion, and whatever opposition between the companies and the men has yet arisen, revolves round this preliminary point. The business of the second Birmingham conference was simply to discuss what further should be done in consequence.

There were two different methods laid before this conference. First it was proposed that the executive committee of the union should present again the programme already decided on, with its claim for official representation. In the event of this being once more refused the further steps were to be left to be taken by the executive as circumstances warranted. This means that the executive would determine whether a strike should or should not take place, and when it should take place if that course were decided on. The other proposal was that a ballot of the men should be taken on the question whether there should be a strike at once. If seventy-five per cent. of the men were in favour of this course, the committee would then offer arbitration to the railway companies. In the event of this being refused the executive would be empowered to call on the men of the union to cease work. The decision actually arrived at was that the executive should communicate with the companies once more, and determine what was to be done after receiving an answer. It is in pursuance of this decision that the letter of Mr. Bell which we have mentioned has been sent to the railway companies. This seems to represent the more cautious and less impetuous method of dealing with the situation, and it is the course favoured by the officials of the union. Those who spoke and voted otherwise were the more belligerent party who believe that the men are prepared to enter immediately on a conflict with the companies. It is possible to represent the decision as an indication that the union feels its weakness and is temporising, fearing that a strike cannot be maintained with any chance of success. That may be so, and the railway companies may so interpret it. In that case they will probably be encouraged to repeat their previous mistake of refusing to discuss matters with the union.

If they do, we believe that notwithstanding the dislike of the union officials to ordering a strike the temper of the men will force their officials' hands. The union's right to representation appears to them a more undoubted right than the other claims they make. They might be satisfied with modifications, on arbitration, of their claims as to hours or wages; but the recognition of the union is fundamental. If the objection of the railway companies to the union's representation is also fundamental, we have the unpleasant prospect of a ruinous railway strike in the near future. But the question must be asked, Why in the opinion of the railway companies is the question fundamental? What Government has conceded to its employees, what some railway companies and many large industrial companies have granted, cannot really be the fundamental question, the point of honour, which the railway companies imagine it to be. The railway men may not be entitled to reduction of hours and increase of wages in the circumstances of the railway industry. But why should the directors not prove their case to their employees as other employers are constantly proving their cases to the trade unions of their men? In the public interests this has been proved to be a good plan. It does not cause strikes but prevents them; and the railway companies are under greater obligations than any other employers to adopt every method that has been found useful for avoiding strikes and trade disputes.

THE CITY.

THE event of the week has been the announcement of the Manchurian Railway loan of £4,000,000, at 97 with 2 per cent. underwriting commission. As the interest on the loan is 5 per cent. guaranteed by the Japanese Government, the underwriting is one of those "gifts" which Messrs. Panmure Gordon, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and the Yokohama Specie Bank keep for themselves and their friends. Of the last Indian Government loan the underwriters had to take over 80 per cent.; but that of course was a

33 per cent. affair. Queer things have happened lately in the City; but we can hardly imagine that a 5 per cent. Japanese loan will not be subscribed by the public at 97. We do not quite know why the Japanese Government is fathoming this loan: we were under the impression that Manchuria belonged to the Chinese Empire. At any rate the Japanese, after turning out the Russians, made loud professions of their intention to restore Manchuria to China. But probably the Japanese occupation of Manchuria will be like our occupation of Egypt, i.e. strictly temporary, until good government is restored, when it will be made permanent, on the principle of "j'y suis; j'y reste".

The wire-pullers in Wall Street, as we predicted a fortnight ago, are already beginning to organise an autumn campaign on the bull tack in the Railway market. Union Pacifics, which a few weeks back stood at 133, have been hoisted to 148, and will be put much higher before Christmas, if rigging the market can do it. After the New Year and until October 1908, the citizens of the United States will be immersed in electioneering for the Presidency. It therefore behoves the magnates to unload before 1908, if they can. The question is, Has the buying power of the public been exhausted, as the borrowing power of the railway companies is plainly exhausted? There is in the United States at this hour an assemblage of all those factors which invariably precede an industrial and financial collapse—namely, over-speculation, over-production, and reckless extravagance of expenditure by the individual. People who have just come from America say they never saw anything like the extravagance of living that now prevails. We have had all these things here, and they have issued in the failures, suicides and frauds of the past unhappy year. But in the United States everything is exaggerated tenfold; and if there does come a panic, it will eclipse all previous exhibitions. For the next six months, however, we think the situation is safe.

The results of the first half of the year's working of the gold mines on the Witwatersrand are remarkable as compared with the same period of the previous year. The production of the Rietfontein mine has risen from £55,000 in the first six months of 1906 to £100,000 in the first six months of 1907, and the dividend has risen from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent.; the Van Ryn has increased from £80,000 to £107,000, and the dividend from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent.; the production of Modderfontein has risen from £19,000 to £54,000, and for the first time this company enters the list of payers with a dividend of 15 per cent. The Angelo mine has risen from £96,000 to £152,000, and the dividend has risen from 0 to 25 per cent. Crown Deep has increased its output from £124,000 to £163,000 and its dividend from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. This is an excellent showing, and might serve to check the prevalent pessimism were it not for two considerations. The first is that when we turn to the price list we find that these shares stand at such premiums as in no case to yield a higher return to the investor than 8 per cent., and in most cases about 7 per cent. Angelos, for instance, are quoted 3*1/2*, which on a dividend of 25 per cent. yields less than 8. Now a mining share ought in our opinion to yield the investor 10 per cent. for his money, or the risk is not worth running, and the margin out of which a sinking fund may be provided is not enough. The second disquieting consideration is the question whether the present rate of production will continue. The Chinese coolies are being rapidly repatriated, and it is becoming every day more obvious that African "boys" cannot be found to take their places. Even Mr. J. B. Robinson has been brought to see this, and has at last fallen into line with his brother mineowners. Mr. Lionel Phillips, who has returned to this country, told the City the other day that he disapproved of the withdrawal of the Chinese labourers. We do not profess to know the "inwardness" of the retirement of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick from the celebrated "corner-house" of Ecksteins. Perhaps it means that the magnates think they will be able to make better terms with the Transvaal Government if they withdraw from active participation in politics. It would be a pity, in our judgment, if the business men on the Rand were to leave the Government

entirely in the hands of the lawyers, the labour leaders, and the professional politicians ; but that is apparently what is going to happen in the Transvaal, as in our other colonies.

Whatever may be the record of business in other directions, the National Discount Company is able to report "steady expansion". The half-yearly balance to June 30 shows an advance of nearly two and a quarter millions sterling in the bills discounted and the gross profits have improved by £39,722, enabling the directors to declare a ten per cent. dividend and carry forward £12,751.

THE POST OFFICE AND INSURANCE.

FOR some time past insurance questions of one kind or another have been somewhat prominently before the Houses of Parliament. We had the House of Lords' Committee considering the question of the business in the United Kingdom of life assurance companies with head offices in the Colonies or abroad. This Committee was appointed during the troubles of the American offices, but they resisted the clamour of the agitators and came to the sensible conclusions to which we referred at the time. The Workmen's Compensation Act is to some extent an insurance question, since if adequate insurance facilities were not available the Act would be impossible. In order to afford evidence of the stability of insurance companies transacting employers' liability business a Bill to apply to these companies the provisions of the Life Assurance Companies Acts was introduced. It had to be dropped, but it is intended to pass it as soon as possible. The intentions of the original Bill were excellent, but the methods of giving effect to those intentions as embodied in the Bill were open to serious objections. It is to be hoped that when the Bill is presented again it will be in an improved and satisfactory form. It is more or less definitely announced that the Life Assurance Companies Acts are to be amended as soon as opportunity permits the question to be dealt with, and to a certain extent the appointment of a public trustee, with which we dealt last week, is an insurance question, since it sets up a Government department to do work which is already satisfactorily accomplished by insurance companies. Quite recently there has been published the report of a departmental Committee appointed to consider whether the Post Office should provide facilities for insurance under the Workmen's Compensation Acts.

It is a long time since Parliament has had insurance matters before it on so extensive a scale. The report of the Lords' Committee and of the Post Office Committee were both sensible and valuable. The Employers' Liability Insurance Companies Bill will doubtless be put into good form before it is passed. When insurance subjects come before committees they are fortunately dealt with on sound lines, a fact which makes us view without apprehension the amendment of the Life Assurance Companies Acts, which is much to be desired, provided the spirit of the Act of 1870 is not departed from. It is reasonably certain that the alterations will be in detail and not in principle.

The Post Office Committee reports against the Post Office undertaking workmen's compensation insurance. Evidence was given before the Committee as to the extensive facilities provided by the insurance companies. The smallest employers, in districts however remote, can not merely obtain insurance readily if they wish to, but they are canvassed by insurance agents trying to persuade them to insure. Among the difficulties which would beset a Government department in dealing with insurance of this character the Committee point out the inevitable lack of elasticity in the conduct of business by a Government department ; the unfair pressure which might be brought to bear on members of Parliament to prevent cases being decided on their merits ; the danger that a Government system would be liable to obtain an undue proportion of unprofitable business ; the difficulty which the performance of the complex business of accident insurance would present to many of the sub-postmasters in rural districts, and the disappointment of the expectation, which apparently exists, that the Post Office would treat

the public more favourably than the insurance companies do.

These are excellent reasons in favour of the conclusions to which the Committee came. The recommendations made by the Committee are not, on the whole, of a very practical nature. They suggest that notices should be displayed in all post offices, drawing attention to the liabilities imposed by the Act and the advisability of insurance : it is scarcely likely, if people will not read about these matters in the newspapers, that they will trouble to read placards in the post offices. The further suggestion that an alphabetical list of insurance companies should be displayed in each post office is open to objection on the grounds that it would almost of necessity have to include weak offices as well as strong ones, and might easily lead some of the public to imagine that the companies mentioned were in some way guaranteed by Government. The further suggestion that sub-postmasters should be encouraged to become agents of insurance companies has already been acted upon, especially by the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, but official encouragement in taking up agencies would doubtless be of some use.

The same Committee is to consider whether it is desirable that steps should be taken to encourage the use of the Post Office Life Insurance system, and if so what steps. This investigation is deferred, but it is scarcely likely that any Committee or any Department will succeed in converting this fiasco into a success.

INSIDE THE HOUSE.

(BY A MEMBER.)

THE debate following on the Vote of Censure, moved by Mr. Lyttelton, discovered an eagerness on the part of the Government supporters to abide by election pledges only paralleled by their readiness to depart therefrom in the case of the Sugar duty last week. We had in their behaviour an interesting object-lesson as to their different outlook upon theory and practice. The superior esteem in which the former is held becomes evident when the Radical party flocks into the lobbies four hundred strong in support of a fiction ; they sprinkle away to half that number when face to face with a fact. Mr. Lyttelton's motion was regarded by them as an attack on the sacred name of Free Trade, so with all speed they round up to resist : but when brought down from the clouds of a nebulous nomenclature and invited to rescue a would-be "free" breakfast table from the taxes on tea and sugar, they assume a nicer circumference and altogether decline to cast away the two stilts that are hidden beneath the baggy overalls of every free-food propagandist. Politically, however, catchwords are worth more than consistency, and it may be expecting too much of the Radical party to think they would resign a terminology for the sake of exactitude, even though their refusal should shackle them to the paradox that by taxes on food free trade alone becomes possible.

From the Unionists' point of view the vote was asked for in order to mark their sense of the reception accorded by the Government to the proposals of the Colonies ; the result of course was a foregone conclusion, but something at all events was done to correct the arithmetic of Mr. Asquith, when he claimed at the conference to represent forty-three millions of people desirous of sending the Premiers empty away, and perhaps also to mitigate in the mouths of those gentlemen something of the curious taste left there by the speeches of the Under-Secretary and others.

The general belief entertained, and endorsed by the "Westminster Gazette" with a greater gaiety than accuracy, that Mr. Balfour had been led into the adoption of the Vote of Censure by the extreme urgency of the Tariff Reformers, was quite wide of the fact ; and neither Mr. A. Chamberlain nor Mr. Bonar Law spoke at all during the sitting.

The debate proved to be an effort on the part of the Government to shift attention from their treatment of the Colonies to Mr. Balfour's probable attitude had he been in power. Mr. Lloyd-George had evidently sat up all night elaborating sarcasms and lining traps with

the view of enticing the leader of the Opposition to declare the details of a policy that he should pursue on his return to office; but Mr. Balfour is little likely to be caught by the snare of so clumsy a fowler, and contented himself and his followers by indicating to the Government that a porter in charge of the door had duties to perform beyond that of slamming it, an action that becomes no less intolerant by setting the button-boy with his back against it.

The comprehensive character of Mr. Lyttelton's motion was such as enabled Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Stuart Bowles to vote in the same lobby with the supporters of a more precise programme, and it may well be that, when the next election comes and the necessity arises, the ground will be displayed on which the two wings may re-unite, the pioneers becoming less particularist and the orthodox less obstinate.

In Committee on the Evicted Tenants Bill the debate rages round the illogical defect on which the whole Bill is based, namely the dispossession and eviction of one set of tenants to make way for another body that desires their holdings. The Attorney-General for Ireland could conceive no better argument wherewith to prop this pretension than to urge that the obduracy of the tenant to hold by his own and remain where he is was a provocation to the peaceful and law-abiding neighbours, who wish, in the words of Mr. Healy, to administer "the dirty kick-out", and squat themselves on his land. Mr. Cherry found also that the cost of maintaining a sufficient force of police to prevent an outrage on the innocent was such that it were better the guiltless should go to the wall and the wicked man have his way. A curious conclusion for a law-officer of the Crown; but this Government before all things is a believer in compulsion, and one cannot quarrel with a consistency that submits to be done to by others as it permits itself to do to all.

Compulsory clauses are inserted in the Bill for the acquisition of land that is further required for the reinstatement of the exiled evaders of rent: the British taxpayer must be paraded and his pockets searched for the necessary means; and the Irish owner is to be sat on by the three Commissioners and his lands annexed for the use of those who owe him arrears.

It is difficult to see in what part of the measure Mr. Birrell bases his pious aspiration for a peaceful settlement: the Chief Secretary has been singularly unfortunate in his previous Ministerial calculations, and no one would advisedly go to him for an opinion of an egg from the outside. It is much to be feared that he is under yet another misapprehension in the case of the Evicted Tenants when, hoping for harmony, he sets up a discord, and attunes himself to the false note that Tenant-wrongs give Tenant-right.

As July draws out the House is concerned on the question of the Recess. According to the latest symptoms this is not likely to occur before 1 September, but no doubt a great deal will depend on the progress of the two Land Bills now before Grand Committees. The English Small Holdings Bill will probably be the first to come downstairs. Containing less contentious matter than its Scotch contemporary it moves along faster, and considerably more time has hitherto been appropriated by the Government supporters than by members of the Opposition. Indeed on Thursday Mr. Chaplin moved that the division be taken, and members were momentarily afraid that the right hon. gentleman was about to create a novel precedent and closure Mr. Harcourt in order to promote the more facile progress of his own Bill. The Government have in many instances received the support and the votes of the Opposition, more especially when directed against Mr. Masterman's amendments, whose aim it is to cut out the County Councils from any status they have under the Bill, and from all authority in their own counties, establishing in their stead a bureaucracy in London more amenable to his project of dumping Whitechapel upon the country districts.

This measure, the Scotch and the Irish Land Bills are all to be passed through the House before the adjournment; Committees three days a week are in prospect, and all-night sittings are expected. The creaking of the guillotine will be heard throughout August.

LORD CLIVE'S FUND.

CORRESPONDENCE which has recently appeared shows that the facts as to the famous Fund established by the munificence of Clive nearly a century and a half ago are little known. It may be as well to make the matter clear. It originated in a bequest of five lakhs of rupees made to Lord Clive by Mir Muhammad Jafar Khan, Nawab of Bengal, in the year 1766. This sum was paid by Clive into the East India Company's treasury at Calcutta, and in the following year he induced Saif-ul-Daula, son of Mir Jafar, to add a further sum of three lakhs. Clive realised the necessity of inducing capable men and officers to enter the Company's military service, and that if such an object was to be attained there must not be before the English people the spectacle of a soldiery acclaimed on return from victory and then left to neglect and oblivion. He decided accordingly to devote the eight lakhs referred to to the relief of officers and soldiers who were invalided or superannuated from the service, and of the widows of those who had died in the service. An agreement was drawn up between Clive and the East India Company, dated 6 April, 1770, under which it was covenanted that the eight lakhs should remain in the hands of the Company, who should allow interest thereon at the rate of 8 per cent., such interest being devoted to pensions for necessitous cases of officers, soldiers and widows. No provision was made for orphans. The capital value of the eight lakhs, at the exchange then in force, was just over £100,000, to which was added the interest which had accumulated during the three years which had elapsed between the date when the gift was paid into the Company's Treasury and the date from which the agreement took effect. This additional sum amounted to about £24,000, so that the total capital of the Fund was £124,000, yielding interest amounting annually to nearly £10,000.

There was an important provision in the agreement to the effect that if it should happen that the East India Company, after the commencement of the year 1784, should cease to employ a military force in India, then the sum of five lakhs should be repayable to Clive or his heirs. The Court of Directors of the East India Company immediately nominated a Committee for the management of "The Military Fund", as it was at first styled, and rules for the grant of pensions were issued in a Bengal General Order dated 23 July, 1771. It had been part of Clive's intention to limit relief to cases that were strictly necessitous, and in accordance with a clause in the original agreement every officer applying for the benefits of the Fund was obliged to declare that his estate did not exceed the following amounts: Colonel, £4,000; lieutenant-colonel, £3,000; major, £2,500; captain, £2,000; lieutenant, £1,000; cornet or ensign, £750. It is worthy of notice than in spite of the great decrease in the purchasing power of money since the year 1770 these limits were maintained throughout the whole period of the Fund's history.

In settling the rates of pension the directors of the East India Company do not appear to have been careful to restrict the liabilities of the Fund to the amount of interest available. They appear rather to have taken the view that the gift of Clive was a foundation upon which they were called upon to raise the superstructure. So early as 1808 the Court of Directors observed that admissions to the benefits of the Fund had gradually become far more numerous than the income of the Fund could provide for, and that in consequence there was a large and increasing disbursement out of the ordinary revenues of the Company for pensions which were nominally "Lord Clive's Fund" pensions. Hence we are not surprised to find that, inasmuch as they found the bulk of the money, they did not consider themselves strictly bound to limit the benefits to the cases indicated in the agreement. In 1824 the Court decided to admit medical officers and chaplains to the benefits of the Fund, although these classes were not mentioned in Clive's deed. In certain cases it was alleged that the provisions of the deed had been violated, but the Court of Directors refused to allow the validity of such an argument. In

1836, in reply to some such remonstrance, they stated that the capital stock of Clive's Fund had long since become exhausted, and that therefore no claim founded only on the original regulations should be admitted. In course of time other retiring pensions were introduced, subscription funds for the benefit of widows and orphans of military officers of the East India Company were established, and the Lord Clive's Fund ceased to hold the unique position which it had so long enjoyed in the Company's history.

Under the Act of 1858 all sovereign and territorial rights vested in the East India Company were taken away and vested in the Crown. It does not appear that during the discussions in Parliament the question was raised whether the change would affect the status of Clive's Fund. It was thought enough, by Section 56 of the Act, to rule that the military and naval forces of the East India Company should be deemed to be the military and naval forces of her Majesty, and the rights of the existing servants of the Company were considered to be safeguarded by the Henley clause. But in 1860 the representatives of Clive brought an action against the Secretary of State for India for the refund of the five lakhs of rupees mentioned in the original agreement, on the ground that the contingency therein contemplated had actually arisen, inasmuch as the East India Company had ceased to employ a military force in the East Indies. The case was contested by the Crown, and the application of Clive's representatives was dismissed by the Master of the Rolls on 6 December, 1861. Clive's representatives appealed, and on 21 May, 1863, the House of Lords reversed the decision of the lower Court and decided that the equivalent of five lakhs must be repaid. The judgment of the Lord Chancellor will be found in the "Times" for 22 May, 1863. This was not however the end of the litigation, for it was not until 1867 that the Master of the Rolls ordered that an arrangement should be made for the repayment of the five lakhs by instalments, the last of which was paid to the heirs of Lord Clive so recently as 1900.

It was however manifest that the decision of the House of Lords in 1863 in no way exonerated the Government of India from the duty of continuing the pensions which had been granted under "Lord Clive's Fund" rules. They were accordingly authorised to continue admissions to pensions under the old rules so long as there should be any officers of the East India Company's forces, or their widows, surviving, but they were to do so without any reference to the name of Clive. It is a good illustration of the strength of custom as opposed to official rules that the pensions are still familiarly known as Lord Clive's Fund pensions, and even in official documents are described as pensions under the rules of the "Military (late Lord Clive's) Fund". Nor can we wish it otherwise. If the pensions now paid are in no sense paid out of the bounty of Clive, it was none the less his munificence which took the initial step and recognised for the first time the duty of the nation towards those soldiers who had become worn out in the hard task of building up the Indian Empire. As these pensions were confined to persons who belonged to the East India Company's forces and their widows, the number of such pensioners is rapidly diminishing. So far as the officers and soldiers are concerned the old Lord Clive's Fund pensions have long since been superseded by other rules, and although from time to time widows of officers are still admitted to "Lord Clive's Fund" pensions, the number is comparatively small, and before many years the last admission will have been made.

ART AND ARCHAISM.

OUR thoughts about art of all kinds are coloured, to a far greater extent than most of us are conscious of, by conceptions borrowed from the physical sciences. Critics write much of evolution, and magnify "influences"; some of them seem to think that when they have discovered an artist's debt to some predecessor, they have satisfactorily explained his gift, or explained it away. We hear continual talk of "advance"; and

the implied assumption is that an advance towards completeness of representation of a real scene, bathed in real light, is an advance towards perfection. Hence when a painter refuses to swim with the current of his time, the cry of archaism is always raised. A favourite phrase is Putting back the Clock. No analogy could be more ridiculously false. Decay and growth are always being exhibited in art. When inspiration flags and mechanical skill gets the better of ideas, how is an art to renew its life? Are we to imitate the example of Constable, who tried, when sitting down to paint, to forget that he had ever seen a picture? At best, this was a confession of weakness. But in Constable's day the tricks and recipes of the studio had sway and formed the accepted canons of popular criticism. There was need for fresh observation, richer matter. Now, on the other hand, danger lies in the other direction. Art in the past has renewed its life by going back and starting afresh. Michelangelo in his progress from youth to age advanced in personal mastery, but all the time Art was losing something; the only salvation for his followers would have been to hark back and begin where he began, or earlier still. They did not do this, and were lost. In those days no one would have dreamed of the modern alternative of throwing all away that was their inheritance and going straight to Nature. But then art did not consist of clever bits of observation.

Two exhibitions, now open in London, have prompted these too trite remarks. One is that of Messrs. Ricketts and Shannon at the Carfax Gallery, the other that of Messrs. Fry and Lytton at the Alpine Club. I suspect that to critics like Mr. Bernhard Sickert, who has written with so much charm and wit and parti pris about modern painting, Mr. Ricketts and Mr. Shannon are both sadly tainted with archaism. In any case, there are plenty of people who think that merely to paint the kind of subjects they choose to paint is a sort of retrograde movement, wrong in itself, especially as they paint in a manner which recalls the masters of the past. Mr. Ricketts paints the Good Samaritan, the Deposition, subjects which have been endlessly treated by generations of artists since the Middle Ages. Mr. Shannon paints Wood Nymphs and the Infant Bacchus; and where is the place of these in modern life? It seems absurd to argue the point: but what a paltry conception of originality is entangled among all such objections!

I must confess that to me such art as that of Mr. Ricketts is immensely refreshing in these days, when so much of our painting is benumbed by theory, raw with literalism, drained of all human interest, or wasted in multifarious triviality of theme. Here is a painter who follows his own instinct and paints his own dreams, who is not intimidated or enslaved into accepting the world as it is, but makes his own world and peoples it with human forms transfigured into spiritual significance and purpose. His art is free, awake, alive. The picture of the "Holy Women" is, to my feeling, the finest of the series, the picture in which subject and treatment are most completely at one, in which the mood of the artist has shaped and dyed his material to most enduring beauty. This vision of the three women bowed in wonder before the upward-pointing apparition which floats, a single gesture, before them, in the stormy dawn-light that fills the strange rock-forms with glooms and lustres of strange blues and glimmering greens, is a creation full of life, an unforgettable poem. What worlds away from the modern type of religious art which seeks to get at the spirit by an appeal to archaeological detail, and truth to all that does not count! Mr. Ricketts has even attempted the theme of Christian art on which the greatest masters have exhausted their powers, the Crucifixion. Certainly he has not repeated other men's ideas; he has brought his own conception; the picture is full of emotion; there is much in it that impresses, and the more one contemplates it, the more does it yield of beauty and of meaning. Yet something of impassioned unity is lacking. The floating banners, perhaps, make for a disturbing weakness, being so prominent as they are in the design. They seem, both in shape and colour, to belong to an alien drama. Similar banners, indeed, stream splendidly in the neigh-

bouring canvas, the "Triumph of Bacchus", where the youthful god, not plump and pampered, but a fragile form languid from nervous ecstasy, is borne aloft by an elephant among a crowd of revellers with torches. Here Mr. Ricketts shows the strong contrast of his gift with that of his companion Mr. Shannon, who has none of his instinct for drama, and dwells rather, always with a certain sense of luxury, on moments of life at pause or at least not in actual conflict. About these pictures of Mr. Shannon's, which have all, I think, been exhibited before, I wrote some months ago, and need only say that a fresh sight of them has not dulled my admiration. The pictures now shown, together with Mr. Ricketts' bronzes, are here to bid farewell before going on their travels to various cities of Germany, a land where both these artists are, it is deplorable to think, so much better recognised than in their own country.

Mr. Roger Fry and Mr. Neville Lytton will also be accused of archaism, because they go back to an earlier technical method in the art of water-colours. For art, the question of earlier or later in such a case is entirely irrelevant. The only question is whether the method is that most apt to the felicities of the medium and materials employed, to the particular gift of the artist and the particular end he has in view. Mr. Fry and Mr. Lytton both feel, no doubt, that water-colour is a medium which is happy in suggesting, but becomes tired and tame and heavy when pressed to attempt full realisation of a scene: we lose then all the charm of lightness, of airy and translucent colour. What pleasant company Mr. Fry's drawings make upon a wall! Mr. Fry uses, now body-colour, now transparent tint, but his drawings remain drawings; he goes back—most rightly and wisely—to the days before water-colours became ambitious of the gilt frame and popular honours of a painting. Though there is plenty of observation in his work—note the mottled swell of the sea and the storm-troubled sky in "The Coast of Normandy"—and variety both of colour and design, it is the static elements in landscape which he handles best; he has little power of conveying the sense of wind and weather and shifting light, things which engross so much of modern landscape talent to the exclusion of structure and design, but which we sometimes feel the lack of in these drawings. Mr. Fry's trees are apt to be lifeless; so, too, in an oil-painting, "Tivoli—The Cistern" (No. 36), which has a good deal of charm, a pretty motive—two girls holding by each other's hands, while one leans over the tank's edge to an approaching swan—is spoilt by the nerveless drawing of the figures. Where power over such difficulties is not demanded by the subject, as in "Castles in Spain"—which has a real sense of romance—and as in the majority of the water-colours, Mr. Fry can and does delight us. Mr. Lytton's contributions to the show are more numerous, and include a large proportion of portraits, both drawings and paintings. Like Mr. Fry, he is lacking in the dynamic sense; his art is poor in rhythm; and it is strangely unequal. In the jesting portrait of Mr. Bernard Shaw as the Velasquez Pope his brush shows a capacity for nervous accent and vivacity which in some of the ladies' portraits completely deserts him. He is at his best in certain of the portrait drawings, especially the fine heads of Monsieur and Madame Geoffroy, which are full of character and beautifully felt. In the water-colours there are several charming subjects, and Mr. Lytton uses his medium with skill and delicacy, though a tendency to cold slaty hues asserts itself unpleasantly at times. The studies of flowers are excellent in their way. Mr. Lytton's future will be watched with interest. At present he seems to stand outside his art too much; his preoccupation with style, quality, &c., will have more effective result when it has become more instinctive and less conscious, when it controls from within a greater intentness on substance, on the emotion and experience of life. But if often disappointing at present, he has always distinction.

LAURENCE BINYON.

THE HOMES OF THE FOURTEENTH-CENTURY LAWYERS.*

IN the later days of Edward Longshanks (alias the English Justinian), and in the earlier days of his son, poor butterfly Edward of Carnarvon, the English Bar and the Inns of Court and Chancery are struggling into existence in the land by Holborn Bars. Holborn or Holeburn signifies the river in the hollow, and in the days of which we are now speaking the stream of Holeburn flows from Ken Wood, Highgate, through Kentish Town, S. Pancras, and Farringdon Road to empty itself in the Fleet estuary. In these times Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, is Lord of the Manor of Holborn. The name De Lacy recalls to-day memories only of the wild strife that raged of yore around the castles of the Welsh Marches; but the De Lacy of first Edward's day, the last of his line, deserves the grateful memory of lawyers. He was a great justiciar, and more than that he was the founder of the honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, which still bears the name of his earldom, and carries on its shield the lion rampant purple in a field, the arms of his old crusading family. It is to this De Lacy that in the year of grace 1287 the Principal and Prior of the order of Preaching Friars grant in consideration of 500 marks the old house where they were wont to dwell near Holeburn stream, and in this house hereafter to be known as Thavy's Inn in Shoe Lane the Earl places the apostolic fathers of Lincoln's Inn.

In the neighbourhood of De Lacy's Inn another confraternity of lawyers is growing up. In these days, Reginald de Grey, Justiciar of Chester, holds at Portpool of the Dean and Chapter of S. Paul's a manor house comprising a messuage hereafter to be known as Gray's Inn, a dove-house, thirty acres of arable land and a windmill. The clerks who are already congregating in De Grey's Inn are laying the foundations of a great legal fraternity whose benchers in the next century will be Justices of the Common Pleas and Barons of the Exchequer.

And besides the Inns of the Earl of Lincoln and the Lord de Grey there also stands on the way to Holborn bridge the Inn of the Lords de Scrope; a famous race, these Scropes, in the annals of fourteenth-century lawgivers, two of them being Chief Justices of the King's Bench, and another sitting on the woolsack. They also gather round them a confraternity of lawyers, whose successors will form the Inn that shall stand above the Inns of Court and Chancery, as the Inn for judges and serjeants-at-law, Serjeants' Inn. The author of "Staple Inn", who is an interesting and well-informed though not always accurate writer, seeing that he makes Lady Jane Grey the daughter of the Duke of Northumberland, opines that the Inns of the Earl of Lincoln and the Lord de Grey, no less than that of the Lord de Scrope, bear in these their early days an official rather than a professional character. In those days these are, he holds, in very truth Inns of Court, inasmuch as their members are the serjeants or apprentices of great judges, and not societies of law students. A fraternity of law students, however, of origin similar to that of the other craft guilds of the age, is growing up in the Inn that faces the Inn of the De Greys and Portpool Market, the Inn that is to be known in later days as the first and fairest of the Inns of Chancery, to wit Staple Inn. Then as in the twentieth century Staple Inn was a collection of tenements enclosing a piece of ground. Already it could doubtless boast a long history. We may guess that even in the days before John Lackland faced the Barons in the field of Runnymede, it was in some of its chambers that the mercers of London stored the wares that were to be sold at the fair held under the shadow of the trees that grew near the Inn of the De Greys in the garden of the Bishop of Ely. What is more certain is that on a portion of its site once stood the court-house of the De Ferrars, the Norman Earls of Derby—a court which in the days of the second Edward, if not earlier, has passed under royal control. And the place seems also to have been a mediæval custom-house where the goods coming from the west were weighed and proved and duty paid on them.

* "Staple Inn." By E. Williams. London: Constable. 5s.

But the days of its glory (as our author deems) dawn in the days of the second Edward.

Hugh Le Despenser, the Marcher Lord of Glamorgan (whom his brother Marchers hate) has shown to the King a way of baffling the devices by which native and foreign traders dodge the wool duties. The plan is to forbid the export of wool hides and wool fells except from certain named places which will be hereafter known as Staples. So the ordinances of the King in 1313 proclaim that at those places alone where the staple is held may aliens buy "wools hides and wool fells and when they have bought such stuffs, paid duty thereon and had them sealed with the 'cocket'" (that is to say, the staple seal) they may "export the same to any country not at enmity with the King whereof merchant strangers have notice". So there spring up in the country certain stapled halls, and at this time we may guess that Staple Inn (where up to modern times a meeting of the grand company and fellows was known as an "accounts") receives its name. Associated as it is with the wool trade, standing as it does outside the City and close to the gate that receives the products of the western counties, it is an ideal site for a custom-house. It is customary, we know, to hold courts in market-places, and the Meter or Comptroller of the Staple has need of lawyers. So naturally a confraternity of clerks and legal apprentices is growing up in and around the Inn, a true sodality of working lawyers and not of Court officials.

Alas! the glories of Staple Inn are short-lived. The desire of the sovereigns of England from the days of S. Edward has ever been to make of Westminster a rival to London's rebellious city. And other causes have long been at work which will draw the lawyers from Holborn Bars. In older times the Fleet had been a bog and Flete Street had been a part of "London Fenne". But in the days when the second Henry's reign is drawing to its tragic close the Templars enfeoff the Bishop of Lincoln in their old residence by the site of Staple Inn and ride to the new home which they have founded on the Thames' banks. The Templars make New Street, hereafter known as Chancellor's or Chancery Lane, and so a new way to the Thames is opened. When, in the days of which we are now speaking, the greed of Kings and the timidity of Popes bring the proud Templars to their doom, their home at the New Temple lies vacant for King and lawyers. So we hear of a staple at the New Temple and at Westminster. By the days of Agincourt the cocket seal has passed from Staple Inn for ever. The place remains an Inn of Chancery. But by these days the majority of the lawyers too have taken their flight from Holborn Bars. Of the successors of the clerks whom De Lacy placed in Thavy's Inn the majority, after a brief sojourn in the Inn of my Lord Furnivall, have drifted either to the New Temple or to the Bishop of Chichester's palace in Chancery Lane, hereafter to be known as Lincoln's Inn. Geography from these days wars against Staple Inn as a great legal centre, and the bullying policy of Tudor and Stuart rulers to the Inns of Chancery results in sealing its doom as a corporation of lawyers, but Gray's Inn tries and almost succeeds in annexing it. It wins back its freedom only to die of inertia. Ere the eighteenth century has run its course, Staple Inn has lost its last connexion with the legal profession. Still it is hardly twenty years since its principal and grand fellows passed ingloriously to the land of nothingness.

EAGLE OWLS.—II.

THE larder is always an interesting feature with the eagle owl, and when there are young birds in a nest, it is sometimes large and varied. Five times have I found rabbits, usually with the head and upper portion of the body eaten; thrice, water-voles; whilst in nearly every nest were remains of peewits, kestrels, partridges and various small birds. The peewits no doubt fall an easy prey to the great owls owing to their crepuscular habits. All who have waited for duck at flight-time know how irritating are the peewits at that hour of the evening as with querulous cry and loudly humming wings—there is no other word to describe the sound they produce as they "shy" at an intruder,

which is like that of an electric fan—they cross the view of the expectant shooter and spoil many a fleeting chance of a shot at wigeon. It was therefore with no small joy and gratification one evening last March when crouching in a marsh after sundown waiting for the wigeon to drop in, and with the peewits doing their best to annoy and disconcert me, that I saw in the fading western light a glorious eagle owl skimming straight towards me; at the same instant a peewit passed within a few feet of my face, and next moment there was a rush of wings and a cry and a flutter, and I knew my friend had replenished his larder up in the sierra and that the two hungry owlets in the heather would not go supperless that night.

As to the eagle owls preying upon the kestrels, I have no ocular proof how they manage it. But I know of several owl-larders which are always full, year after year, of kestrels' primary feathers and other remains. As kestrels, especially when living in colonies, are much given to fluttering around their nesting-stations and making a considerable disturbance about sundown, I imagine that the owls take this opportunity to capture a certain number of them.

I have for over four years kept a couple of eagle owls in an aviary where they have flourished exceedingly and consumed an almost incredible number of rats. These birds were taken in 1903 from the nest I first found in 1878. Excessively savage when very young, they gradually became more amenable and would consent to take food from me and eat in my presence. My repeated prolonged absences, however, during the winter months in Spain have caused them to revert to their original uncouth habits, so much so that now it is no unusual thing for them to strike violently at me when I enter their dwelling. This is a good-sized cage built around an ivy tree with a high pent thatched roof in the deep shadow of which is fixed a barrel. Here when sated they sit side by side, indulging in pistol-like cracks of their beaks when interviewed. But they by no means avoid the light, and are often to be seen of a fine afternoon sitting in the bright sunshine as if they enjoyed both the light and the warmth of its rays. After various minor engagements with them, during which I received a series of more or less painful stabs from the needle-like hinder talons with which they strike, I procured a fencing mask which to some extent prevents my being taken unawares when engaged in cleaning out or regulating their cage. The courage and pertinacity of these big birds is amazing. One day last summer one of them, after making a violent attack on me which was repulsed with a rake-handle, returned to the assault on eight successive occasions and eventually struck its claws well into my shoulder, after which it retired to its tub and fired volleys of "snaps" at me, evidently much pleased at its success. Despite such minor adventures, feeding eagle owls is ever a joy to me, for there is a quaintness and originality about their ways and movements which must be seen to be appreciated.

When food is brought them, they fly to a convenient point such as a log or perch and watch every movement of the feeder intently. Upon a rat or bird being thrown to them they spring up with marvellous agility and "field" it with unerring accuracy, even when bowled "wide", with either left or right foot, dropping back to their perch with their booty. Then if undisturbed, should the food be of reasonable dimensions, such as a half-grown rat or a sparrow, it is gravely raised in the talons of one foot and held somewhat as a meditative smoker at times holds his cigar or pipe. Next moment it is seized in the beak head-foremost and swallowed whole. As it disappears the throat is expanded and the beautiful patch of white feathers on it, at other times hardly noticeable, becomes most conspicuous. A pause now generally ensues, all trace of the meal having departed save an inch or two of rat's tail which hangs down pensively from one corner of the mouth, or, in the case of a sparrow, perhaps the extremity of the tail feathers. The production of more food at once causes a final gulp to be made and the first course finally disappears, the owl getting ready for another "catch". Three young rats or four or five sparrows seem to be thus stowed with but little effort.

The general appearance of the eagle owl is known to

most people, but few save those who have seen them close at hand realise the size, brilliancy of colour and depth of their great yellow eyes, which, combined with their so-called "ears", fine black tufts on either side of the head, give them a most weird and impressive appearance. When alarmed or on the alert they compress their plumage and elongate their bodies and afford a picture of savage determination and strength either to fight or flee. To noises, especially those they are unaccustomed to, they are peculiarly sensitive. The rumbling of a cart or water-barrow always causes them great alarm, which they show by dashing aimlessly around their cage. But when irritated and angry they assume extraordinary attitudes; every feather on their bodies stands erect, nearly tripling their natural size, whilst their wings are raised on high and arched around so as to form a regular wreath of feathers, in the centre of which appear their heads with their huge yellow eyes flashing, their bodies swaying from side to side as they rest first on one feathered leg and then on the other, all the time giving vent to an appalling series of pistol-shot snaps. This is apparently their stock-in-trade for alarming any would-be attackers, and is very efficacious with cats and many dogs, who are clearly at a loss to know what class of enemy they have to encounter.

When food of larger size such as a rabbit or full-grown rat is offered to them, they dash down and seize it and either fly off with it in their talons or, holding it in one foot, limp away on the other dragging it after them. Arrived at a convenient spot they tuck their prey under them, and fluffing out the beautiful vermiculated feathers on and about their thighs until they assume the shape of a pair of big Zouave trousers, completely conceal their impending meal. On one occasion I threw in a couple of largish half-grown rabbits, which were promptly seized; one owl, however, happened to take alarm and drop its ration, upon which its comrade seized the two, and disposing them in a convenient heap quickly expanded his (or her) trousers until both rabbits were completely concealed. The other bird quickly returned to retrieve its dropped rabbit, and it was a study to observe the anxiety with which it lurched around the cage on the vain quest whilst its mate sat erect, puffed out but placid and immovable, on top of both rabbits. It was not until the rake-handle had been vigorously applied that the wearer of the Zouave breeches consented to part with its comrade's rabbit.

In captivity these birds are somewhat silent; after being fed they usually give a series of weird "boo-oos" of satisfaction; whence their Spanish name of "buho" (the aspirate being dropped in that language). But in a wild state their cries are peculiarly fascinating and varied, and many a night in the hot summer evenings in Spain have I listened with delight as these grand birds uttered their wild and melancholy hollow calls which echo and re-echo along the rugged cliffs and gorges in which they spend their joyful existence.

WILLOUGHBY VERNER.

SOUND-STINGS.

SOUNDS in a city are never pleasant. In the country they may or may not be; by day at least their quality is to exhilarate the spirits; and they co-operate with rural sights to increase enjoyment. But in towns one can only assign relative rank in disagreeableness according to the various effects they have on one's mind. They may merely surround us as with a heavy atmosphere. This is the general condition of the streets in these days when machinery has largely ousted the traction of animals. Or they may detach themselves with different results on the nerves from this fundamental bass: as a motor-horn or bicycle-bell does. There is nothing quite so irritating, so aggravating, as the bicycle-bell unless it be the whirr of the telephone-call. They are alike in being something more than physical noises. They have a moral effect. They rouse resentment, they issue an insolent challenge and the blood pricks up to answer and annihilate the machine and the person who operates it. The bicycle-bell comes on you suddenly, ordering you to stop or retrace your steps. It arouses your indignation as a board with "Trespassers will be prosecuted" does when you wish to explore an attractive bit of country.

You resent it as an outrage on your personal liberty; and the man who is responsible for the peremptory summons bulks in your eyes as claiming preposterous privileges. No other sound in the streets is quite like this. Whatever the reason may be, you do not feel there is the same personal note in the motor-horn. But it is there in the telephone-call, and you jump in anger objurgating the performer; though you know it is impossible for the mildest and gentlest of human beings to modify the insistent shrill clamour of his machine. That consideration does not mitigate your dislike of him or her in the slightest degree. How is it that some people cannot tap at a door without irritating you? A knock at the door means nothing if it is not a request for permission to enter. Yet there are people who knock with sharp staccato blows, so that the whole convention on which knocking is based is overturned, and the courtesy and politeness of it is transformed into the rudeness of an upstart person making an impudent demand. There is the same irritating quality in the knocking of some people that there is in certain kinds of voices, which startle you and get on your nerves as the knocks do. They sting. It may often be noticed that this peculiar kind of knocker is also the person with the peculiar voice: both are staccato and irritant. We may unjustly accuse the bicycle-bell ringer and the telephone operator by identifying their moral and intellectual character with the hard, metallic, unsympathetic and unshaded tones of their machines; but hardly can we be mistaken in identifying the character of the knocker and the speaker with the knock and the voice. At least that is the apology we make to ourselves for the angry opposition that springs up against them. We suffer; and to be told that their knock or their voice may be nothing but a piece of mechanism without any significance, that the one is only done unskillfully and the other is only badly constructed, appeases us not a jot.

There is this difference in noises. Some produce moral effects, others may be troublesome, annoying, may drive one to despair like the sound of nightly dogs or cats or a nibbling mouse in the sleeplessness of a quiet night; but in themselves they are indifferent; you do not pass moral judgments on them. We should make a distinction in the case of dogs. You may be as angry at the nocturnal barking of a dog as you are with the bicycle-bell or the telephone-call, but that is mostly because you think your neighbour odious who has not put his dog under control, thus ignoring and making a breach into your right to quietness. Your quarrel is then not with dog-barking as dog-barking. Yet dog-barking pure may be distinguished as we distinguished the motor-horn and the cycle-bell. The deep-mouthed bay is a noise: the sharp, piercing bark of the terrier is something more; it irritates us as does the cheeky insolence of the conceited, underbred, raw young man in petty authority: say the booking-clerk at a twopenny-tube station. Cats are such totally unmoral animals that their weird and terrific noises have no moral associations: not so much as the winds which will be howling at all hours. Quite figuratively speaking they have owners; but not even the sensibility which perceives a moral significance in the sound of the bicycle-bell, the telephone-call, or the knock at a door, can be irritated with a man through his cat. You see the difference at once if you compare the case of a baby with that of a cat. A baby crying in the night, crying for the light or whatever else, to the listener, assumed to be not one of the owners of the baby, produces no less dire sounds, and its irresponsibility is quite feline. But then it has owners; and whoever says that he objects to the baby because of its parents we shall excuse. They are responsible, as the ringer of the bicycle-bell or the telephone-call is responsible: it is their mechanism. Other people might make a different list of sounds exercising effects on them such as we have described. We have made our own selection; but there may be something to be said about drums, cornets, bagpipes, canaries, or the piano and the English concertina badly played. As to the noise of the barrel-organ, the old type, we have learned ex relatione amici of the curiously inverted part it may play under modern conditions. Amidst the roar of motor-omnibuses in the Strand he

caught the strains of a barrel-organ. It might be the last time he would hear them. His thought was touched with the emotion of the past. If he had been near enough he might in a gush of memories and sentiment have given the grinder—"grinder who serenely grindest"—as much as threepence, perhaps. But a few years ago, and he would have consented to the death of all organ-grinders, and banished them to wherever it is they have now gone of their own accord.

PASTORAL.

Freely translated from the Latin of Magnus Felix Ennodius, Bishop of Pavia, 513-521 A.D. (*Carmina I. viii. Pref.*)

HIS flute the simple shepherd lays not by
As soon as all the assembling flock's reviewed.
Mute brakes breed fears; and fears will multiply
Till sound shall reassure the solitude.
But when shrill promptings of the air bewitch
The treetops, and the shockhead bushes teem
With frolic fitful tongues that talk aloud,
The world begins to twitch
With summons and persuasions till we seem
To justle encompassed in a justling crowd.
Whom the elemental voices deign salute
In secret, what has he to mourn or sigh?
The comrade of his outlaw-days, his flute,
Right gaily to his lips he may apply:
His nicely-managed pout and adept puff
Search the pierced inlets of the tortoiseshell
With two-and-froes of air and breath in league!
Creaking his notes, and rough:
May be—and yet Palæmon's tale they tell,
And reckon herding days and nights of long
fatigue.

What vigilance it needs to guard a fold;
How many plots your villain wolf will hatch
When Mistress Famine whets his wits twofold—
Blow as his fancy bid, he's words to match
His matter, seeks none other mate to enlist
For loyal comfort in his communings.
... Let now to this our shepherd, thus engaged,
Some master lutanist,
Some city-bred, fine, scoffer, vaunt the strings
Whereby delights are born, souls melted, griefs
assuaged,

—Oh, what a dubitation shall perplex
The simple ungarnished spirit of the poor hind,
Hearing the ingenious courtly artifex
Himself explore the lute, and help him find
In the mere strings themselves, it seems, such art
That ev'n beneath an artless blunderer's touch
They render spells of power to crack unbidden
The caskets of the heart,
And overwhelm a man with the overmuch
Of melody that within himself was hidden!

But he's resolved: *I hold it sin and shame*
If any foreign skill should learn me less
To love the skill that from my grandsires came:
Lest unrestrained ambition (quick to press
Beyond the mark of homespun wit) by pride
With his dead fathers put him out of joint,
And ruin that his peasant muse also;
Lest, She, personified,
The sober Craft of the Old Tradition, point
Scorn at the cottar's son that knew not what to
know.

J. S. PHILLIMORE.

BRIDGE.

THE OPENING LEAD AGAINST A SUIT DECLARATION.

THERE is no point in the whole game of bridge upon which opinions differ more widely than the best original or blind lead against a strong-suit declaration. We have recently received a letter from a bridge-player of recognised skill in which he says: "I should so much like to see the question of the original lead to a trump declaration calmly and impartially discussed. Many of us here, who are not the worst players in the club" (the name of the club must remain a secret), "make the blind lead from nothing if we have no suit headed by two honours. Personally I lead the lowest of three small cards, and, although the system may not be logically defensible on paper as against the lead from strength, I continue it whenever I have an understanding partner, simply because I find that it answers in practice." We devoted a long chapter to this particular subject in "Saturday Bridge", but it is one that will bear further discussion.

We are, and always have been, strong advocates for the first lead against a suit declaration, before the dummy hand is exposed, being purely defensive, and, in practice, we much prefer to open a weak suit rather than a guarded one without two honours in sequence at the head of it, but we cannot agree with our correspondent's theory of leading the lowest card of his weak suit. We invariably lead the highest. The effect of leading the lowest card will undoubtedly be to deceive the dealer, but it will also deceive the leader's partner, and, surely, it is just as much an accepted axiom of bridge as it was of whist that it is of greater importance to afford information to one's partner at the beginning of a hand than to withhold the same information from one's opponent.

Properly to consider the question of the lead from weakness as against the lead from strength we must go back to the old days of scientific whist. In those days it was almost a religion among our best players that the opening lead should be always from the numerically strongest suit. This also obtained in America for a time, but a section of players arose in Boston, where whist was played on its most scientific lines, who dissented from this view, and advocated and practised the opening lead from a weak suit. So convinced were they of the soundness of their theory that they challenged the upholders of the strong-suit system to a duel at duplicate whist, in order to prove which was the most efficacious in actual play. The result of the trial was not only surprising, but absolutely confounding, to the supporters of the strong-suit system, for they were beaten all along the line.

For the benefit of those of our readers who may not understand what is meant by "duplicate whist" we will endeavour to explain it. When a match such as we have spoken of is arranged, two teams are selected of, say, six couples on each side. The hands are dealt out and arranged in advance. The completed tricks are not put together, but each player turns down his cards in front of him as he plays them and the winning tricks are marked by counters. Each couple play four hands against every couple on the other side and a record is kept of the results. When the first round is completed the hands are reversed—that is to say, each couple now play the hands which their opponents played in the first round, and their opponents have to play the hands which they had played, and again a record is kept of the results. In this way the question of luck is eliminated altogether, as each side plays the same hands against the same opponents, and it becomes simply a matter of skill and of the best methods of playing the cards.

At first sight it would appear that memory would become a strong factor in this game, and that a player with a good memory would be able to recall mistakes that his adversaries had made and to profit by them when it came to his turn to play the same cards, but in actual practice it is not so. We have been assured by several first-rate players, who have played a great deal of duplicate whist in America, that it is a fatal mistake to try to remember past hands. Each hand has to be played on its own merits, and any attempt to

carry one's mind back to the corresponding game in the first round is certain to end in confusion and loss.

If the above result occurred at whist, where there was no dummy hand to be exposed, how much more strongly must it apply to the game of bridge, where the dummy is exposed as soon as the first card is led, and where half the attacking forces are at once exposed to view. The conditions are so entirely different when you have a declared strong trump suit against you at bridge from what they were when you had only a turned-up trump card against you at whist. At whist each side started on equal terms, each had an equal chance of winning the odd trick of the game. At bridge the declarer of the trump suit is playing to win the game, or to get as near to it as he can, while the defenders are simply struggling to save what they can. If the opening lead from a weak suit could ever have been a possible one at whist, it follows of necessity that it must be a very useful one indeed at bridge. Do not be misled into thinking that we advocate the opening lead of a weak suit in all cases. If you have a good strong suit, such as ace, king, or king, queen, or queen, knave, 10, by all means open that. It is far better than a weak suit. What we do say is that, when you have no suit with high cards in sequence at the head of it, it is better to open a weak suit, before the dummy hand is exposed, than to open a guarded suit, possibly with a tenace in it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ITALIAN ANTI-CLERICALISM.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—To resume my letter of last week. By a curious coincidence Italian anti-clericalism began gradually to assume its present shape at precisely the same time as the French. Jules Ferry and Paul Bert were at the zenith of their influence, and monks and nuns were being harassed in France, when, in 1882, that fine but sinister-looking statue to Giordano Bruno (in the Campo de' Fiori at Rome) was inaugurated, in the presence of a great gathering of delegates from every anti-clerical "group" and socialistic and republican association in Italy. An unruly and rowdy mob repeated in chorus a verse or so from Carducci's all too famous "Hymn to Satan". Francesco Crispi, the Premier, stood on a balcony overlooking the Piazza, encouraging the crowd in a demonstration the principal object of which was to annoy and insult the Pope: for to nine out of ten of those present Giordano Bruno was a mere name. Someone is said to have reminded Crispi that possibly he might live to hear shouts of "Death to the King!" mingled with those of "Morte al Papa!" He died a little too soon to realise this prophecy; otherwise, it had been fulfilled in this year of grace 1907. Last February there was a great anti-clerical procession, which, starting from the foot of the Giordano Bruno statue, marched to the Farnese Palace, the official residence of the French Ambassador, to express their sympathy and approval of the results of M. Clémenceau's anti-clerical policy in France. On arriving at their destination, however, they were repulsed by the police; when instantly the shouts of "Morte al Papa!" were changed to those of "Abbasso il Re!" and "Viva la Francia!—Viva la Republica Italiana!"

No doubt Signor Gioletti and the majority of the present Ministry would gladly suppress these disorderly manifestations, which are becoming too frequent, but the task is a difficult one, for if such a state of affairs has become possible it is mainly the fault of preceding Governments that have done their best, by every open and occult means, to weaken the religious sentiment of the country. Banished from the universities and from most of the secularised communal schools, religion has—in the course of a few generations—fallen from the majority to the minority in the large towns, with the usual result of an ever-increasing disregard for constituted authority. One of the features of this decay of religious belief is that, unhappily, the principal organs of propaganda of the anti-clericals, in Italy as elsewhere, are distinguished less for their boasted liberalism than for their abominable blasphemy

and indecency. This troublesome party, moreover, in its hot haste to disintegrate existing society and to create a new one on its ruins, encourages the publication of that cheap and obscene illustrated literature, popularly known as pornographic, which disgraces every newspaper kiosk and bookstall from one end of Italy to the other, and especially those of Florence and Rome. In this particular, if we may believe reports from Paris, Italian anti-clericalism imitates the French, for, says the "Echo de Paris", "never in the whole history of Paris have her streets and boulevards been disfigured as they are now by pornography in all its varied degrees of nastiness". It is doubtful, however, whether even Paris produces anything to compare with the outrageous "Asino" and with one or two other illustrated papers of the same class which are tolerated by an all too complacent censorship in Italy, to the disgust of respectable people irrespective of religious or political opinions.

On the other hand, if anti-clericalism is distinctly on the increase in Italy, it cannot be described as popular, being generally regarded by law-abiding and reasonable people as a nuisance, since its meetings invariably end in disorder and violence: probably the real reason why the Government takes apparently so little heed of the movement, knowing well enough that the more rowdy and unpleasant its assemblies and processions become the greater will be the disgust in which they are held, for the average Italian is distinctly a lover of peace and order. To an independent onlooker, however, it seems pretty evident that such papers as the "Asino" and others of a like sort are sooner or later destined to prove dangerous, not only to the existing form of government, but also to the commercial prosperity of the country, since it is evident that if the Pope and the King, with their respective Courts, were ever driven from Rome, that city, which depends entirely upon the multitude of tourists, pilgrims and foreign visitors that fill its countless hotels and pensions, would be ruined in a few months.

Meanwhile there are a hundred and one social abuses in Italy, the reformation of which should be the first care of a true reformer, but which never trouble the socialists and anti-clericals—a proof, if one were needed, of the insincerity of their boasted love of progress. For instance, the streets of Rome and of every other Italian city, except those of Milan and Turin, teem with beggars and loathsome starving cripples, but no socialist ever dreams of "demonstrating" against the scourge. The Italian railways continue to be a disgrace to Europe, and the filthy condition of the public lavatories a menace to the health of the community, whilst the agricultural interests of the country are grossly neglected. But these and other like evils are of little or no importance compared to a slight concession made by the Government to a religion which, whether the Italian anti-clericals like it or not, is still that of the vast majority of their compatriots; for if the large towns, especially in Central Italy, are mainly anti-clerical, those in the north and south and the whole of the country districts are intensely Catholic. Anti-clericalism in Italy may therefore be described as rapidly becoming a nuisance or an absolute danger not only to the peace, but even to the unity, of the country. It were well for the Italians, who are gifted with much common-sense, and the majority of whom openly condemn in no measured terms these unseemly manœuvres of self-styled anti-clerical "patriots", if they were to exert themselves to deliver their streets from all foolish and inflammatory demonstrations, and persuade their well-paid professional agitators to help on "the great work of true progress and higher morality", apparently so dear to them, by more dignified and pacific means.

As to the Italian anti-clericals, they would do well to practice that virtue of *pazienza* which they are so fond of recommending to their many visitors from less favoured lands. They have but to hold their hands and watch, and see for themselves the ultimate result in France of a movement they so slavishly imitate and parody in their own country. They may thus even live to realise that a wise Government does not eliminate so great a moral force as religion from its councils with impunity; and that it would be well if the spiritual concerns of the community were left strictly alone, whilst

the commercial, industrial and agricultural interests of the nation were allowed to absorb at least a share of the attention of politicians and agitators who seem to imagine that, so long as the people turn from Christianity to become atheists, they need have no concern as to how they are to live and improve their material condition.

Yours, &c., RICHARD DAVEY.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The gravest indictment of the Government's attitude in regard to the existing lawlessness in Ireland is that they have ready to their hand a weapon amply sufficient for its suppression, but which they obstinately refuse to use on the representation that the ordinary law is sufficient for the purpose—I mean the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887.

That Act, which met with unexampled opposition, not only from the Nationalists, but also from Mr. Gladstone, whose so-called "Coercion" Act of 1882 was much more stringent, was made permanent just in order that whatever Government might be in power they should not on the occurrence of an outbreak of crime, with which the ordinary law proved insufficient to deal, require again to apply to Parliament for additional powers.

The Government have been credited with a desire to repeal the Act of 1887. However this may be I do not anticipate that they will make the attempt, for two reasons; first, no doubt they are aware that the predominant partner would not stand it; and secondly they may have an uneasy foreboding that they may require to use it.

The Government are in this dilemma. If the ordinary law in Ireland is sufficient it is not being properly applied, because there is no doubt that in some parts of Ireland lawlessness and intimidation are rampant; if on the other hand the ordinary law is insufficient they are open to strong condemnation in declining to avail themselves of the Act of 1887.

I observe that recently the Solicitor-General for Ireland applied to have a case adjourned to next Assizes in order that he might consider whether he should not apply for a change of venue. He was careful to explain however that he made the application under the ordinary law and not under the Act of 1887.

My object in writing is to draw attention to the Government's attitude in this matter, because although I have no doubt that the Opposition in both Houses of Parliament are fully alive to the Government's refusal to use the Act of 1887, I doubt whether the general public remember the powers which the Government possess but will not use.

I cannot say that I am hopeful of the Government setting that Act in motion, because it would be necessary for the Lord-Lieutenant to "proclaim" the districts in which lawlessness exists, and you can judge whether it is probable that the Government will be willing to approve that course.—I am, &c., M.

"THE SORROWS OF IRELAND."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

10 July, 1907.

SIR,—Every day, without ceasing, this sermon should be preached in Ireland. These "policies" at which "Pat" flings his contempt have been the drugs of the people: their salvation is a thing that will come from within, not without. On most matters, the man who has proved himself capable of conducting a business deserves attention rather than the journalist who has done nothing but write about other men's work. "Pat" has done something and, in my opinion at all events, his words should be listened to with respect on that account.

But has "Pat" outside his native Mayo a wide experience of Ireland? I doubt it. If he knew the country better, he would be slower in making general statements. For Ireland is a land of very distinct localities, containing conditions differing in most respects; this is due to the rarity of migration. In England most people have met in the south farmers bred in the north or west; a continual movement of

the population takes place. Local conditions are stereotyped in Ireland, and a parish in Galway similar in soil, climate and, one might say, race to a parish in Clare will yet differ widely in the characteristics of its people.

As far as England is concerned, the Irish question might be settled by the adoption of either of two downright policies. If Ireland is a province of the United Kingdom, treat it as such, have its centre of government in London, in fact administer it like Wales or Yorkshire. Or else assume it is a decrepit country as Egypt was, and send over a man like Lord Cromer who will have absolute powers to do what he thinks is good for the country regardless of the opinions of its people. Nobody has any faith in Irish officials as at present appointed. The "Catholic" section of the community which now furnishes so many Irish officials contains some of the stupidest and meanest-minded men in the Empire.

Would Mr. Longworth and his party like either plan? I am, Sir, yours obediently, JAMES O'BRIEN.

THE WINE WAR AND CHEAP CLARETS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

17 July, 1907.

SIR,—Mr. F. B. Ehrmann's letter is a somewhat startling revelation of the extent to which the public have hitherto been fleeced by wine merchants' charges. If high-class clarets could be sold in this country at a reasonable figure, there is no doubt that a considerable filip would be given to the wine trade. But what guarantee have we in the great majority of cases that the wine we buy is what it purports to be? What is S. Julien? When we buy a cheap champagne how do we know that it is not the produce of the Saumur district, and when we buy Saumur who is to say we have not secured some concoction innocent of any association with the Saumur district? France has just passed through a crisis directly due to the adulteration of cheap French wines. If France, which sends us so much wine good and bad, is herself the victim of adulteration, what must be our own case? The real story of the trouble in the Midi has not yet been told in this country. No one seems to understand it. Perhaps Mr. Ehrmann could enlighten us?

Yours,

A BUYER OF CHEAP WINES.

MR. RIDER HAGGARD AND YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Ditchingham, 18 July, 1907.

SIR,—After waiting for a fortnight I see no answer from "East Yorkshire" to my letter in which I requested him to come out of his ambush and be so kind as to substantiate his allegation first made in your issue of 1 June, and repeated in that of 22 June. That allegation, it will be remembered, was that I had "summed up" my "judgment on the Wolds of Yorkshire" thus: "Agriculture on the Wolds is not dying, it is already dead".

I am therefore driven to the conclusion, which your editorial note published at the foot of my second letter seems to support, that "East Yorkshire" does not adduce his evidence because he cannot.

His position then is this: animated by malice either against myself or against his neighbours, the "two eccentric wealthy old brethren", he used your columns to publish anonymously three distinct mis-statements concerning me, and, for the public benefit, to draw from them deductions as to my agricultural ignorance. Two of these he subsequently withdrew, the third, although disproved, remains unwithdrawn, and is indeed insisted on. I make no further comment on your correspondent's conduct since "everyone seeks honour in his own fashion", but under these circumstances, sir, you will, I am sure, agree that I did not overstate the case when I wrote to you of that "anonymous and irresponsible chatter" which, beneath the mask of honest criticism, so often pursues the steps of those who are in substance doing public work, if at their own expense. To expose the authors of such stuff is a thankless task, but occasionally, as in the present instance, it seems to be worth the trouble.

For this reason, and because "East Yorkshire's" effort of imagination originally appeared in the SATURDAY REVIEW, I will again trespass on your kindness and ask you to publish this final letter.

Your obedient servant, H. RIDER HAGGARD.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-TEACHER.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Springfield, 20 Kew Gardens Road, Kew,
18 July, 1907.

SIR,—In the article "Porro unum est necessarium" which you published on the 13th inst. I seem to recognise the style and prejudices of a writer who on other occasions has appeared in your columns as the more than candid friend of the elementary school-teacher. As I read his continual references to Matthew Arnold, I find myself wishing that a Matthew Arnold could have written on the subject, instead of a contributor so conspicuously lacking in "sweetness and light". Matthew Arnold knew the elementary school-teachers and their work at first-hand, and seldom missed an opportunity of speaking well of them and their discharge of a difficult duty: your contributor seldom misses a chance of doing the opposite. But then your contributor is not a Matthew Arnold, a competent critic, or an impartial judge. I know the elementary school-teachers and their work with first-hand knowledge myself, for I am one of them. They are much criticised, seldom honoured, and too little valued, and they have to witness the most calm and often unjustified assumptions of innate superiority to them by the persons who run them down. If, getting restive, the elementary school-teachers were to say that nobody can be quite so ungentlemanly and ill-mannered as a titular gentleman, or so unfair and cowardly as an anonymous writer, that would be as unjust to the people in Debrett and the contributors to reviews where unsigned articles are the rule as your correspondent is to the teachers. No universally or even generally fair indictment can be drawn against a whole class of people, any more than against a nation. It would be as unscientific to take your contributor as a fair representative of the class he assumes to belong to as it is for him to judge the elementary school-teachers as a whole by an individual met with here and there. In a letter alone I could not find space to traverse your contributor's arguments or rebut his misstatements, and I must content myself with saying that I agree with him when he writes "It" (by which he means, I understand, the public elementary school) "wants men and women of gentle breeding and the highest education". So it does. Elementary education "wants" every one of the sixty or seventy thousand certificated teachers to be that, Parliament wants every one of its six hundred and seventy members to be that, the Bar every one of its thousands to be that, and the clergy and ministers every one of their myriads to be that. But in point of fact "men and women of gentle breeding and highest education" are rather scarce. How are the elementary schools to get sixty thousand of them when among even the limited number of writers needful to supply its articles week by week the SATURDAY REVIEW itself must employ a contributor who in almost every line of his article shows that he does not fulfil that high ideal himself? No doubt he regards his own standards in such matters as indubitable; but when I read his article, with its references to Matthew Arnold, I recollect that great critic's parable of the British Medical College of Health in the Euston Road and the stone lion erected by the gratitude and pence of pill-consumers. Arnold said (I quote from memory) that this establishment hardly came up to one's conception of what a British Medical College of Health ought to be. I think of that when I hear or read opinions about other people expressed by persons, intensely satisfied with themselves, who pride of breeding and culture, but hardly reach to "the height of that great argument" themselves. In a critic the unum necessarium is sympathy. Without sympathy there can be no true knowledge; without true knowledge no fair judgment. I hope your contributor will reflect on this before he sits in the seat of the scornful again.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. H. YOXALL.

REVIEWS.

AN AMERICAN CRITIC OF AMERICA.

"Life and Letters of Edwin Laurence Godkin." Edited by Rollo Ogden. London and New York: Macmillan. 1907. 2 vols.

THE life and letters of E. L. Godkin are the saddest, and at the same time the fiercest, indictment of American democracy that has yet appeared. Its pathos lies in the fact that it is testimony wrung from an unwilling witness, after forty years of unavailing struggle with the forces of barbarism in a country that would have us believe that it is the crown of modern civilisation. Its fierceness lies in the bitterness of admitted failure. We earnestly recommend every thinking man, who values the principles of honesty, decency and rationality in the public life of his country, to read every word of these two volumes, and to ponder well upon their significance. It cannot yet be said of Britain, "mutato nomine de te fabula narratur". But from the rapid trend of public events it is impossible to say how soon the story may be applicable to ourselves.

Edwin Laurence Godkin was the son of an Irish Presbyterian clergyman, a Repealer in 1848, and was born in 1831 in the county of Wicklow. He went to London to read for the Bar, and scribbled for the newspapers with so much effect that he was despatched to the Crimea when little more than twenty as war correspondent to the "Daily News". His letters attracted some attention in London from their power of graphic description and from the fearlessness with which they attacked incompetence in high places, the two qualities which made Godkin the famous journalist he afterwards became. In November 1856 he arrived in America. "There is clear evidence that the call of America came early to Mr. Godkin", says his editor, Mr. Ogden. "But it was not to America the refuge of the starving and over-taxed Irishman that he looked; not to the land of well-to-do people across the sea who loaded ships with food for those perishing in the Irish famine; but to America the living demonstration of those democratic principles of government which with him were bred in the bone. It was with something of the enthusiasm of Shelley, tempered by the cast of a philosophic mind like Mill's, that Mr. Godkin thought of the republic of the West." Into the struggle between North and South Godkin threw himself with all the ardour of a young Irish journalist, and thundered against slavery and secession in the columns of the "Daily News". With the Shelley fever still in his veins he became an American citizen and married an American wife, thus endeavouring to purge himself of the crime of being "a foreigner", unsuccessfully as he was afterwards to learn. The letters and articles which Godkin wrote for the English and American press during the Civil War are interesting and vivid pictures of that event, accompanied by political comments, legal disquisitions, and historic criticisms which are always vigorous, though not of any permanent value, as the writer was inexperienced and as presumptuous as most journalists. Anyone who is interested in the war between the Northern and Southern States would do well to correct Godkin by "Billy" Russell, for the great correspondent of the "Times" was as hostile to Americans and the United States as Godkin was partial to them; and Godkin's writing at this time was marked by an unpleasant bias against Great Britain—he was, in short, more Yankee than the Yankees.

In 1865 Godkin founded the "Nation", an independent, serious weekly review of which he was the editor and shortly afterwards the proprietor. This was the beginning of his fame and power as a publicist. It was, indeed, an auspicious moment for such an enterprise. The war was over, and Godkin's cause had triumphed. The work of building up a new nation on the ruins of the South with the strong material of the North, a nation free from the curse of slavery, and untrammelled by a feudal aristocracy and a useless monarchy, was to do. What more natural than that a cultivated and sincere Radical of thirty-five years of age should imagine

himself to be the prophet of the new gospel of liberty and progress, of honesty and rationality? Nothing more natural in the world; and nothing more natural in the world than that he should be crushed like a rotten apple in the jaws of American democracy. The literary men of America, to their credit be it said, rallied round Godkin loyally; and these volumes are full of charming letters from Lowell, Bigelow, Samuel Ward, William and Henry James, Howells, and many others, encouraging and sympathising with him in his fight with vulgarity and rascality. The "Nation" became "a power", to borrow an Americanism, and so far a pecuniary success that Godkin was able to sell it in 1881 to the proprietors of the "Evening Post", a paper which was just starting. Godkin was editor of the evening and the weekly organ, with an absolutely free hand and a liberal salary, and he continued till shortly before his death in this capacity. Godkin visited London frequently during the next ten years, and was received with open arms by the Gladstonian Liberals, for was he not an Irishman, a Radical Home Ruler, and an American editor? The judgment of English society, which he saw for the first time, formed by the mature journalist in the meridian of his power and fame was of course very different from the trash he used to tell the American public on that subject in his younger days. If we may convert Mr. Ogden's phrase, "the call of England came late to Mr. Godkin", for from this date his fondness for England, her manners, institutions, and public men grew so rapidly upon him that, as we shall see, he found his final refuge here.

Mr. Henry James, the American novelist, and Mr. James Bryce, our present Ambassador at Washington, were his most intimate friends in London, while he writes warmly of the hospitality of the late Lord Farrer at Abinger Hall. There is an interesting answer to Mr. Bryce dated "New York, 17 October, 1884", on the subject of a second Chamber. We did not know that Gladstone and his colleagues had begun to plan the destruction of the House of Lords so long ago as 1884, though we remember of course that it was at that date Lord Salisbury was giving trouble about the Redistribution Bill. Mr. Bryce was evidently deputed to sound Godkin, in the hope that the famous American publicist might say something against second Chambers in general, and the House of Lords in particular, which could be trumpeted forth as "the opinion of the civilised world". They had mistaken their man, for Godkin was anything but a mere partisan. "My dear Bryce", he wrote, "I have never heard the usefulness of a second Chamber even discussed here by anyone. There seems to be no difference of opinion on the subject." (How very awkward!) "The value of the second Chamber in practice, which I think everyone recognises, lies mainly in the chance it gives for reconsideration, and for bringing public opinion to bear on any particular measure. . . . As I have said before, I have never heard the matter discussed, but I am satisfied, from the kind of criticism one hears on Legislatures in general, that property-holders would regard a proposal to legislate by one Chamber with genuine alarm, which would only be allayed by a great increase in the veto power of the Governor." Did Mr. Bryce show this letter to Gladstone? Towards his seventieth year Godkin's health failed, and in 1899 he was compelled to give up his editorial duties. "Mr. Godkin was not so well in the first months of 1901; yet his longing for England was so intense that it was finally thought best he should go", writes Mr. Ogden. He died at Torquay in 1902. Such is an outline of the life of a great journalist; and it is a deplorable fact that as the power of the press increases the number of great journalists decreases. It is not a clear and honest thinker, wielding a fearless and independent pen, that is wanted nowadays on a newspaper, but a machine for transcribing the coarse and mercenary ideas of the millionaire proprietor. It is highly significant that the only two editors in the American press who have made a name for themselves by fighting dishonesty and blackguardism in public life were importations from this country, the one an Englishman, Louis Jennings, member for Stockport, and the other an Irishman, Edwin Laurence Godkin. Both married American wives: both wasted their best years

in trying to induce American politicians to be ordinarily honest and American journalists to be moderately truthful: and both returned to this country in disgust. Writing about Cleveland's Venezuelan message, by which Godkin says he was "thunderstruck", he gives the following sombre picture of the situation in the United States: "An immense democracy, mostly ignorant, and completely secluded from foreign influences, and without any knowledge of other states of society, with great contempt for history and experience, finds itself in possession of enormous power, and is eager to use it in brutal fashion against anyone who comes along, without knowing how to do it, and is therefore constantly on the brink of some frightful catastrophe like that which overtook France in 1870. The spectacle of our financial condition and legislation during the last twenty years, the general silliness and credulity begotten by the newspapers, the ferocious optimism exacted of all teachers and preachers, and the general belief that we are a peculiar and chosen people to whom the experience of other people is of no use, make a pretty dismal picture, and, I confess, rather reconcile me to the fact that my career is drawing to a close. I know how many things may be pointed to as signs of genuine progress, but they are not in the field of government. Our two leading powers, the Legislature and the press, have to my knowledge been running down for thirty years." Then again: "We are in the midst of a bitter and dirty canvass, but I think we shall beat the rascals. The Blaine movement is really a conspiracy of jobbers to seize on the Treasury under the lead of a most unprincipled adventurer." But Godkin did not beat the rascals; they beat him. The Greeleys and the Blaines and the Crokers finally beat him out of New York into the pleasant lanes of Devonshire, no bad exchange for one who loves his peace. To see the truth of Godkin's confession that the Legislature and the press have been running down for thirty years, one has only to compare his portrait of the government of New York in the 'eighties with the municipal scandals of San Francisco during the last six years. Nothing will ever purge American public life of its corruption and barbarism but the appointment of magistrates and judges for life, and the devotion by the educated and respectable classes of a certain portion of their time to the duty of governing their fellow-citizens. Nothing but an independent judiciary and the sense of civic duty which still animates a large proportion of our countrymen stands between us and Mayor Schmitz and Lawyer Rueff and the municipal brothel paying £60,000 a year. How long our democracy will leave the bench independent, and how long the spirit of a gentleman will survive in our politicians—it is fast disappearing from our press—who can say?

HONORÉ DE BALZAC.

"Honoré de Balzac." By Ferdinand Brunetière. French Men of Letters Series. Edited by Alexander Jessup. London: Lippincott. 1906. 6s. net.

IT is no unmixed blessing to come under the fascination, spell, allurement, call it what we will, of Balzac's peculiar quality of genius. His books can never be skimmed. Nor does one willingly put any one of them down at one reading. To read and read again the whole of his prodigious output would mean a labour of years, and Heaven defend us from tackling the ever-accumulating library of his critics and commentators. His style is as curious a mixture of ugliness and charm as must have been his face and his person. The hallucination which he weaves—no, forges—around us is really very much akin to his own lurid sensations in his ceaseless travail of creation. "God only needed seven days to make *His* world", he announces, "I've been at mine for twenty years and I've not done with it yet. I write with such difficulty that I must needs twist and turn a sentence a hundred ways before I'm quit of it." His methods of working upon proofsheets corrected fifteen or sixteen times, with a little army of exasperated compositors at his beck and call, soon became stock Parisian anecdote. A sort of Titanic obsession seized him when in contact with his

characters. He probably hated many of them just as much as we do, but it never occurs to his readers any more than it did to Balzac to abandon them, and they crop up repeatedly throughout the tangled scheme of the "Comédie Humaine". He could carry a work like "César Birotteau" in his brain for five years, all the while frantically busy with twenty other books. Then when the birth crisis arrived there was nothing for it but César Birotteau must be brought forth—(with the aid, be it added, of limitless supplies of the strongest black coffee obtainable, Balzac's chief stand-by in his throes of gestation)—and sent into the world garbed and vested, within a fortnight. Some of his commentators, including Ferdinand Brunetière, maintain that Balzac's speciality was stern realism—the painting of life exactly as it is—and that herein is his greatness or his limitation, according to our comprehension of the true functions of art. But is this so?

Balzac himself tells us that we can always better express what we imagine than what we experience. The extraordinary phantasmagoria of "La Peau de Chagrin", of "Les Chouans", of "La Recherche de l'Absolu," can scarcely be accepted as life exactly as it is, although those splendid fragments of the Comédie are as much masterpieces as the comparatively sombre-hued and greyer-toned "Eugénie Grandet" or "Le Père Goriot", or "La Femme Abandonnée". But even here we pause at Balzac's realism, and remember that amongst his earliest outside literary influences were a certain Mrs. Ann Radcliffe and E. T. A. Hoffmann, the now mostly forgotten fantasist, who in his day inspired half the romanticism of Europe. We are told again that in his study of life Balzac neither rejected nor selected. Nevertheless, turning to one of his reputed descendants in realism, Zola, it becomes pretty clear that Balzac did a vast amount of rejection and selection. No doubt his choice of subjects was often an entirely new departure, and perhaps this is where we are apt to confound his romanticism with realism. He perceived, for example, a fund of romance in every phase of the money-getting and money-spending of modern civilisation. In our own decade his imagination would have run riot in the Humbert case. He would have conjured up a regular panorama and chaos of individual passions, ambitions, loves and hates seething behind an American combine. Balzac delighted in coincidences. We may notice therefore in parenthesis that what he achieved in French literature was during the same period accomplished for Russia by Gogol. The latter's famous "Miortvuiya Dushi" (The Dead Souls) is in brief a Russian drama of the three or four thousand characters which a society presents, as planned in the "Comédie Humaine"—and the power of money is equally the pivot of Gogol. As Balzac's early vogue was greater in Russia than in France, Gogol undoubtedly knew of him, but it is not likely that he was directly influenced by Balzac, seeing that the idea of the "Miortvuiya Dushi" originated with Pushkin, who died before Balzac had appeared in full upon the scene. Along with monied interests, indeed as their mainspring, Balzac viewed the hundred and one ramifications and sequences of sexual and family relationships, the inevitable satisfying of what he summed up as *les appétits naturels* of humanity. He has been reproached for too seldom reverting to any overwhelming love force. Whilst by no means disbelieving in its occasional advent, he saw—and who will disagree with him?—that only here and there do we meet with the rare phenomenon of an all-absorbing, unquenchable love, indifferent to all practical considerations of self-interest, and ready at last to rise supreme over passion itself. One recalls no instance of Balzac's attributing this type of love to a man, but he could delineate its possibility in two such wholly opposite natures as Eugénie Grandet and Lucien's Esther. In depicting his own sex, Balzac appears to have trusted largely to intuition, or to what women told him; and if we except his stray sketches of himself his men are often less convincing than his women. Whether we quite believe him or not when he tells us that he has an *esprit tout féminin*, it is quite clear that an intelligent curiosity always kept him on the alert with woman. The results of his observations can be awesome in their

accuracy. In his varied knowledge of woman Balzac's sole modern rivals perhaps are Meredith and Turguéniev. Of course with his mania for labelling he was bound to classify her, as, for instance, *la femme comme il faut*, *comme il en faut*, or *comme il n'en faut pas*. To the third category he relegated the generality of women with pretensions to first-rate creative ability, vide his judgments of Madame de Staél and George Sand. But he had a tremendous respect for the feminine critical and analytical faculty, and was almost ludicrous in his sensitiveness to women's praise or blame of his own work. It is not so much the plot of a Balzac novel we discover which absorbs us, nor what his people are saying and doing, but rather what they are thinking, or what Balzac is thinking in connexion with them. Somewhere in his "Physiologie du Mariage" he maintains that great as was the value of eighteenth-century literature, its philosophy never went more than skin deep. "But the study of the mysterious origins and impulses of thought, the probing of the organism of the human mind and soul, the geometry of its strength, the phenomena of its power, an appreciation of the faculty which it possesses of acting independently of the body, of transporting itself whither it will, and perceiving what it will without corporeal aid; the study in short of the dynamic laws of the human mind and its physical influences will be the glorious contribution of a later century to the treasury of human science." We may remark his characteristic stress upon the physical and not the spiritual influences of the mind. He added no psychologie to his physiologie; and his humour—he had plenty—is decidedly more physical than spiritual, as anyone who knows "Les Contes Drolatiques" will acknowledge.

Viewed in this light, there is fresh pertinency in the statement of Sainte-Beuve that this man wrote with his blood and muscle. But with all the vigour of his blood and muscle, Balzac had besides a queer vein of superstition, and observing that the human mind, no matter how prosaic or precise its calibre, has from time immemorial been attracted, in spite of itself, to the occult, the marvellous, the intangible, he constantly pursued a clue to their origins. "Instead", he exclaims impatiently in "Cousin Pons", "of founding University chairs for everlasting lectures on Shakespeare and the sixteenth century, why not establish the study of the occult sciences under the name of anthropology?" Owing to the posthumous publication respectively in 1899 and 1906 of two large volumes of small print of Balzac's "Lettres à l'Etrangère", the wonderful romance of seventeen years of his own life has been bared to the public gaze. In passing, one would like to object to the ridiculous term "alien" applied to these letters throughout the translation of M. Brunetière's study, and also to the tiresome alliteration of "Petty Bourgeois" for "Les Petits Bourgeois", Balzac's unfinished study of the lower middle class. In the "Lettres à l'Etrangère" we have Balzac's daily outpourings of himself to the Countess Hanska. This woman, mostly separated from him by half the length of Europe, with whom he only came into actual touch some seven or eight brief times during the space of fifteen years, only took his name some six months before his death. If we are to believe Balzac's own statement, he never even read over, much less wrote, any one of these letters a second time; and possibly for this reason their style is infinitely serener and smoother than that of the Comédie. He spent hours at this correspondence, and often alludes to the ducats his idol is costing him, whilst editors, publishers and creditors alike are battering vainly at his door. Here undoubtedly he sought to exercise the artist's privilege of selection and rejecting. At pains to reveal himself at his heroic best to the woman whom he has elected as the cleverest and most discerning of her sex, he is yet for the life of him, in the sheer pleasure of an intense egoism, writing his glaring inequalities and inconsistencies into every line. Her letters to him, if we are to believe his own statement, he carefully destroyed, but evidently she occasionally commented upon certain ardent interludes in his relations with other women. "Men", he replies, "have and must have their

diversions", or else he reverts to his favourite appétits naturels, which, vous autres femmes, vous avez une tendance illogique à mêler avec le cœur. The substance of the letters is little more than the obsession of his work, the plague of his debts, the undying nature of his love. But the irresistible Balzac glamour is at work. The actor knows how to enlist our full suffrage of interest and sympathy, and we turn his pages eagerly watching for the dénouement of the play. Here, if nowhere else, we must all concede that Balzac was a right royal romanticist and visionary. He wanted his sowing and reaping in one. His life must be a glowing fairy tale, where he was the Prince Charming of youth, wealth, love, fame, power. But as the years rushed on relentlessly, and the full flush of manhood merged into middle age, we catch sharp, pathetic little glimpses of rifts in his vision splendid. He finds that his brain will no longer be cudgelled with impunity. He complains that he can only work for ten instead of eighteen hours at a stretch: even the doses of coffee are losing their efficacy. Illnesses and delays creep in more frequently. He recovers though, and is once more robust and buoyant. He has written "Splendeurs et Misères des Courtisanes" and "Honoreine". No one will dare to suggest any literary falling-off in either book. Then there come intervals when his inspiration so completely fails him that he has written with difficulty for three and four hours a day only. He has been laid up for a week, and scarcely capable of penning a word to his lady love. But the doctors have been forced to put him on his legs again; the old vigour has returned; he is getting "Les Paysans", which was simmering in his mind for eight years, on to paper. The work will extend over eight volumes: it will be the crowning point of the Comédie.

Fortune and fame are daily drawing nearer; youth has flown, but he can still cling desperately to a dream of love. In spite of her wrinkles and his grey hairs, and mutual tendencies to embonpoint, the gate to enchantment is still open before them. And here the second volume closes. There remains sufficient material for a third, but whether it will ever see print is doubtful; nor would it be likely to throw any fresh light upon the few remaining years of Balzac's life. Was his own story Comédie or Tragédie Humaine? One wonders whether a man with his dual capacity for illusion and hard work could ever be driven to sound on his own account the uttermost depths of human anguish. And when his physical power for work was exhausted, when his illusions faded, and he at last was persuaded that hope can be nothing more than une douleur déguisée, then happily for himself this Balzac died. If the death pangs of his fantasy were as violent as its birth throes they were at least brief, and the agony quickly over. Whether we esteem his art high or low, one thing is certain: he was every whit as much a conjurer where his deepest personal feeling was implicated as in the labyrinths of his novels. And in the absolute unconsciousness of the "Lettres à l'Etrangère" lies the secret of their pungency and persuasion.

DEMOCRACY AND THE SOIL.

"Soils: How to Handle and Improve Them." By S. W. Fletcher, Professor of Horticulture in the Michigan Agricultural College. London: Constable. 1907. 8s. 6d. net.

IT is not altogether with equanimity that we view the recent habit of publishers to push American text-books of agriculture in this country. Of course there is so much larger a public for such books in the United States that it is most profitable to provide for the American farm student and try to sell the surplus on this side, but the result is that the English buyer gets an unsuitable book pressed upon him and the English author finds one avenue blocked for any publication of his own on the same subject. For books on English and American agriculture are not interchangeable; however much its principles may be independent of place, yet farming is a very local affair, and what has to be done is not always the best but the most practicable

under the given conditions of land and labour. Furthermore, pace Mr. Winston Churchill and similar eminent authorities, in the art of farming Englishmen have little to learn from other countries, as may be seen from the simple fact that our yields per acre are the largest in the world. It is in the organisation of the industry, not in the management of land or stock, that the American can teach us. Nor, to be quite frank, are we in love with current American methods of teaching agricultural science. Professor Fletcher claims that the modern text-books are "democratic", which means that they become loose when a little hard thinking is requisite and inflated when they wish to become impressive. The spirit of the "boom" and the "Ad." is too much in evidence. It is this passion to be "democratic" that has led the United States Division of Soils into the successive nightmares of speculation which have entertained the soil chemists of other countries for the last few years.

This preliminary grumble over, we can honestly recommend Professor Fletcher's book as containing a well-reasoned practical account of the nature and benefit of such operations as ploughing, subsoiling, and cultivating. It does not go into what the English farmer would regard as the fine points of his craft, e.g. there is no discussion of such questions as the advisability of a spring ploughing for the root crop or whether all the work should be done with the cultivators, or again the wisdom of sowing swedes on a stale or a fresh tilth; but as we have said above American agriculture has hardly reached the stage when these niceties of technique come in. The book is well printed and most delightfully illustrated. Why will not one of our publishers commission an English book of the kind? We have practically nothing to tell the world of modern methods and tools.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHEMICAL IDEAS.

"A History of Chemical Theories and Laws." By M. M. Pattison Muir, Fellow and Praelector in Chemistry of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. New York: Wiley and Sons. London: Chapman and Hall. 1907.

M R. PATTISON MUIR'S contributions to the history of chemical science have long been well known; his earlier outline of the theory of chemistry was, previous to the publication of Lothar Meyer's famous text-book, the means of introducing to many of the current generation of chemists a general and philosophic conception of their subject. The point of view of the present book is that a science cannot be understood unless it is approached historically, and that even the most modern hypotheses require for their appreciation some knowledge of the earlier mistakes and the abandoned speculations which prevailed during the development of the subject.

Mr. Pattison Muir does not claim to write a history of chemistry; he traces the growth of knowledge and opinion on such matters as the nature of the elements from the crude conceptions of the alchemists through the strict atomic theory down to the current ideas about ions and electrons. Similarly he deals with the nature of chemical change, which with the conception of element and compound form the two special ideas marking off chemistry from the other sciences.

We find Mr. Pattison Muir's book both more readable and we venture to think more informing, when he is dealing with Lavoisier and Dalton, with the atomic theory and Avogadro's hypothesis, than when he comes to more recent theories like the phase rule and ionic dissociation. These matters are too near and too debateable to allow of the historian getting either the external view or the sure vision which is necessary before he can set out his material easily as an organic whole.

We can recommend Mr. Pattison Muir's treatise to any serious student of chemistry; it is just the book for a clever boy who has learnt all the routine, and now should begin to think more abstractly and generally.

NOVELS.

"The Canker." By James Blyth. London: Digby, Long. 1907. 6s.

Such an outcry was raised, on the appearance of Mr. Blyth's first novel, at his methods of depicting the rural life of East Anglia, that most people are aware what those methods are. Mr. Blyth is a pitiless analyser of rustic life and character, and appears to see in human nature hardly anything that is admirable. Instead of attempting to decide whether his vision is clearer than that of more optimistic persons or is seriously defective, it may be more serviceable to survey briefly this last example of his manner. "The Canker" will often horrify its readers and occasionally amuse them. It contains, besides its rustic protagonists, an undeniably clever sketch of two maiden ladies, representatives of an old land-owning family in "Daneshire". But the book has a serious purpose, and if its author succeeds in awakening the national conscience to an evil which we choose to disregard, but whose emanations are far-reaching and poisonous, he will have done good service. "The Canker" is that short-sighted policy which permits what are known in country districts as "innocents"—persons often sane and cunning enough to trade on their defective wits—to be at large, and consequently to burden future generations with their own grievous heritage.

"New Chronicles of Rebecca." By Kate Douglas Wiggin. London: Constable. 1907. 6s.

Those who did not make the acquaintance of *Rebecca* at Sunnybrook Farm are recommended not to miss the present opportunity. *Rebecca* is perhaps not so clever as her creator thinks, but she is an engaging child, dowered with a heart of gold and a large share of that quaintness which we have learned to look for in the State of Maine. Indeed, we like *Rebecca* so well that it is something of a shock to perceive her, in the last chapter, developing into a rather commonplace young lady. That, however, is an excuse for reverting to the earlier of these pleasant chronicles. Whether as the self-constituted aunt of orphans or as the protector of the national flag, *Rebecca* is alike attractive. But she is at her best as a diarist. "I have thoughts", she says, "that I can never use unless I write them down, for Aunt Miranda always says, Keep your thoughts to yourself. Aunt Jane lets me tell her some, but does not like my queer ones, and my true thoughts are mostly queer. Emma Jane does not mind hearing them now and then, and that is my only chance." We are proud to be sharers of *Emma Jane's* privilege.

"None so Pretty." By the Author of "A Discrepant World." London: Longmans. 1907. 6s.

There is a certain quiet charm about this story which renders it very pleasant reading after a course of raucoous fiction. The author tells his tale in a calm, leisurely fashion. He absolutely refuses to be hustled. He is something of a sentimental and likes to linger lovingly over his studies of emotions. The book has the defects of its qualities. It lacks robustness. It is well defined by that colourless word which appears in the title. It is "pretty". The value of the book lies in its delicate reminder that poetry still remains for us if we will only penetrate below the surface and withdraw our thoughts for a while from the mere machinery of life.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

We have received the first numbers of "British Birds" (Witherby. 1s. monthly), an "illustrated magazine devoted to the Birds on the British List". The opening number has an article by that excellent and most conscientious ornithologist Mr. Howard Saunders on "Additions to the List of British Birds since 1899". We look forward to a new edition of Mr. Saunders' "Manual of British Birds", but we cannot say that we await with any enthusiasm the addition to the British list of birds like the dusky thrush (*Turdus dubius*), the black-eared wheatear (*Saxicola tapazina*), and the Siberian chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus tristis*). We do not for a moment question the records: the birds have been "obtained", no doubt, in

England, but we really cannot regard them as British at all. The list of casuals and other aliens grows and grows, and there seems no end to it. In our view the time has come not to add to the lists of real British species, but to weed it out. By all means let a list be kept of foreign birds occasionally seen during migration on the coast or inland, but there is no use in naturalising them by granting them the right to be called British. An attendant evil of making more British species is that there is a constant endeavour with certain collectors and "observers" to "obtain" these rarities. Hardly any great rarity can be acknowledged unless it is shot first. We had far rather that the Siberian stonechat escaped notice—then it would not have been obtained. Last year we saw a pipit, which was certainly neither the tree nor the meadow pipit, and followed it closely for some time. It may have been Richard's pipit, or some species hitherto unidentified in England. But we fail to see how any useful purpose could have been served by "obtaining" this rare bird. A new pipit would have been added no doubt to the county list, possibly to the British list, but to what really useful end? We do not make these remarks in any spirit of hostility to the new magazine, which is likely to be an interesting and useful publication; and we hope that it may often have papers on the habits of our British birds by Mr. Saunders and the other good authorities who have promised to contribute. But the rarer the bird the less desirable is it that it be "obtained".

"Poems of Lord Byron." Selected, with an Introduction, by Charles Whibley. Edinburgh: Jack. 1907.

It is apparently not part of the business to-day of an editor or preface-writer to trouble his head about the accuracy and completeness of the edition of a great master's works to which he puts his name. He leaves that to the publisher. The reprints of the old and condemned editions of Ruskin's works are an instance in point. If, then, the editor is not concerned with the text, how can we expect him to attend to the illustrations and use his voice or influence in the matter? We can hardly suppose that Mr. Whibley thinks—well, thinks highly of the coloured pictures with which his new edition of Byron's poems are garnished. If he does, he might cast his eye once more on two or three of the most valuable works of art in this volume—on the illustration of "I saw two beings in the hues of youth" (opposite page 64), and "I am awake at last" (opposite page 250), and he will then surely see these things in a new light. In other ways there is little to complain of in the book, which is well printed. Mr. Whibley's introduction is a bit of lively writing, with just the slash that is suited to his theme. We agree with him that it does not matter if Byron is not in the fashion at the moment—that the paragraphist finds him poor copy nowadays. His fame can do without the approval of the "literary gents"; as, for the matter of that, so can the fame of George Eliot, at whom, as Mr. Whibley no doubt knows, the critics have been carping.

"Small Holdings." By L. Jebb. London: Murray. 1907. 10s. 6d. net.

Miss Jebb's notes—for she does not affect that they are more than this—form the most useful collection of facts about small farming in England to-day so far made in any book. She is evidently an ardent believer in cultivation by small farmers in England, but she presents her facts in an impartial way. Miss Jebb points out that the number of holdings from one to fifty acres is given in the return of the Board of Agriculture for 1904 as 343,450 out of a total of 511,554. Thus the number of such small farms represents no less than two-thirds of the total number of holdings in England. In other words the small holders of England, contrary to the prevailing belief, are really a very considerable class, though they only farm about a seventh of the agricultural land in the country. What then becomes of the case, on which Radical agitators insist, that the people are denied all access to the land?

"Revue des Deux Mondes." 15 Juillet. 3 fr.

M. Pinon concludes in this number his interesting series of articles on the Macedonian question. But, though he sums up the general political position and the aims of all the rival forces with great impartiality, we cannot see that, in the end, he arrives at any very satisfactory conclusion. He does not let us contemplate any definite solution of the problem. When he tells us that the Great Powers do not wish to abolish the Turkish régime, but to strengthen and reform it, we are tempted to ask if he really thinks that any Power, great or small, believes in the capacity of Christendom, united or otherwise, to reform the Turkish Government. To speak of such a thing at this time of day is an absurdity. It is true that a nominal Turkish suzerainty may be maintained over a system controlled and officered by Europeans, but then the Government would not be a "strengthened" Turkish régime. It may be a good thing to maintain a nominal integrity of the Turkish Empire. If France wishes to maintain the rôle of conciliator in

the East between rival Powers so much the better, but at present it would seem she bids fair to lose her once predominant position of protector of the Eastern Catholics. His conclusion that the Macedonians have probably still many trials to endure is unfortunately less disputable.

FRENCH REVIEWS OF ART.

"L'Art et les Artistes." Mars, Avril, Mai. Paris: Pierre Lafitte et Cie. 1.50 fr. each number.

M. Léon Bonnat writes a dithyramb to the glory of Velasquez, whose genius nobody is better qualified to appreciate than the great French portrait-painter. In "Les Dessins et Aquarelles du Petit Palais" M. Louis Vauxcelles reviews an exhibition of drawings and pastels lately organised by the keeper of the "Palais des Beaux-Arts de la ville de Paris". "La Caricature en Allemagne" is the subject of an amusing article by M. R. Meyer.

M. Pierre de Nolhac's "Les Portraits de Mme. du Barry" is, as usual with this charming writer, a capital piece of art criticism. Mr. Frank Rutter comments on "La Peinture française au South Kensington (La Collection Ionides)". "La gravure en Allemagne: M. et Mme. Oscar Graf", by Mr. William Ritter, puts before us the works of two artists little known outside Germany. M. Aurel somewhat overrates M. Louis Dejean's statuettes in calling them "Les Tanagra d'aujourd'hui".

M. Armand Dayot gives us an excellent biographical sketch of "Thomas Gainsborough", beautifully illustrated. "Les Portraits peints et dessinés du XIII^e au XVII^e siècle à la Bibliothèque Nationale" are reviewed by M. Edouard André, and the pictures and drawings exhibited at the Salon of the "Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts" by M. Maurice Guillemot.

"La Revue de l'Art Ancien et Moderne." Mars, Avril, Mai. Paris: 28 rue du Mont-Thabor. 7.50 fr. each number.

Mr. H. Spielmann brings before the French public "Le Legs John Samuel à la National Gallery"; a beautiful "hors-texte" heliogravure is given of Moroni's "Portrait of a Gentleman". M. Edmond Pottier concludes his "Phidias et ses prédecesseurs", in which he shows himself again as good a scholar as fascinating writer. We entirely agree with him when he reduces to nearly nothing the part played by the Doric element in the development and evolution of Greek plastic art. M. Philippe Zilcken studies "Les Pointes sèches de Fernand Knopff", M. C. Bayet concludes his excellent article on "Giotto à Assise: les scènes de la vie de St. François", and M. Louis de Fourcaud gives us the third part of his "Honoré Fragonard", concluded in the number for April.

"La Collection Moreau au Musée des arts décoratifs" is reviewed here by M. Léon Deshairs, and M. Gustave Mendel gives us an interesting glimpse of "Les Figurines de terre cuite du Musée de Constantinople". In "Botticelli, costumier", we get another welcome specimen of M. Henri Berteaux' excellent method in art criticism. M. de Mély brings to light some documents relating to the question as to whether Bartholomeus Rubeus and Bartolomé Vermejo are one and the same painter or not. "Le Mausolée des maréchaux d'Albigeois: Notre Dame-de-la-Roche", by Count Lefebvre des Noettes is a good contribution to the history of French sculpture during the thirteenth century.

M. Emile Michel went himself lately "Au pays de Giorgione et de Titien", and his travelling notes are very interesting.

(Continued on page 88.)

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M. Gustave Mendel concludes "Les Figurines de terre cuite du Musée de Constantinople", and M. Emile Bertaux "Botticelli costumier". Three magnificent portraits of members of the Madrucci family—one by Titian, the two others by Moroni—lately sold by the Salvadori family of Trent to an American collector, form the subject of a masterly article by M. Georges Lafenestre. "Les Salons de 1907" are reviewed in a first article by M. Raymond Bouyer. "Dominique Jouvet, dessinateur et aquafortiste" by Miss Louise Pillion, and "Le Peintre-verrier Dirick Vellert et une verrerie de l'église Saint-Gervais, à Paris", by M. N. Beets, are both interesting contributions.

"Art et Décoration." Mars, Avril, Mai. Paris: Librairie Centrale des Beaux-Arts. 3 fr. each number.

M. Gabriel Mourey devotes an excellent and beautifully illustrated article to "Les Animaux en Porcelaine de Copenhague", and M. M. P. Verneuil gives us, with his usual taste, some hints on the building and decoration of "Maisons de Campagne". The works of the sculptor "Lucien Schnegg" here illustrated by M. Charles Saunier seem to be rather deficient of originality and individuality. M. Louis Vauxelles reviews "La Collection Moreau-Nélaton", and M. Jacques Copeau an exhibition of water-colour and black-and-white drawings by "Ferdinand Luigini".

The splendid gathering of portraits by early French artists exhibited at the "Bibliothèque Nationale", is summarily reviewed by M. François Courboin. M. M. P. Verneuil devotes two very flattering articles to Miss J. Foord's "Decorative Plant and Flower Studies" and to "The Glasgow School of Art". In "La Statuaire et le Costume moderne" M. Henry Marcel examines how far modern dress can be reconciled with the true principles of sculpture in the round.

M. M. P. Verneuil in "L'Art décoratif au Salon de la Société Nationale", and M. Camille Mauclair in "La Peinture à la Société Nationale", pick out for us some of the standard works lately exhibited at the Grand Palais: among the painters M. R. Menard, in our judgment, stands "bon premier" with his exquisite "Le Jugement de Paris", a gem of the finest quality. M. Charles Saunier describes "Deux Cottages de Louis Bonnier".

"Les Arts." Mars, Avril, Mai. Paris: 24 Boulevard des Italiens. 2f. each number.

Among the latest acquisitions of the Louvre in the Picture and Drawing Department, reviewed by M. Jean Guiffrey, everything else vanishes before the marvellous "L'Homme au verre de vin", a master work of the highest standard by some anonymous French painter of the fifteenth century. "Les Collections de MM. G. et H. Pannier", which M. P. André Lemoisne brings into light, comprises nothing but eighteenth-century pictures, selected with great taste.

M. Cheramy, besides being one of the leading solicitors in Paris, is an exquisite art dilettante: M. Louis Rouart devotes to his magnificent collection of pictures a very interesting and most beautifully illustrated article. M. André de Saint-Groux writes a short notice on some of the best pictures in the "Collection Sedelmeyer", sold by public auction last month.

"Les Salons de 1907: Société nationale des Beaux-Arts" are reviewed by M. Charles Saunier in a magnificently illustrated article. M. André de Saint-Groux continues his "La Collection Sedelmeyer", and M. Maurice Demaison criticises the most interesting "Exposition de Tissus et de Miniatures d'Orient au Musée des Arts Décoratifs" lately opened.

For this Week's Books see page 90.

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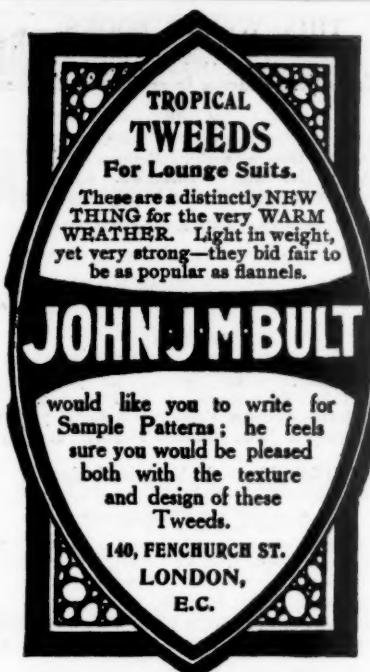
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Cr.

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To Subscribed Capital—£4,233,325, viz., 169,333 shares of £25 each	846,665 0 0
Capital paid-up, viz.: £5 per share	400,000 0 0
Reserve Fund	12,653,224 6 9
Deposits and Sundry Balances	3,689,707 8 7
Bills Discounted	100,843 1 9
Rebate	55,084 8 4
Amount at credit of Profit and Loss Account	55,084 8 4
	<hr/> £17,745,524 5 5

	£ s. d.
By Cash at Bankers	194,875 12 1
Securities—	
British and Indian Government, City of London Corporation Bonds, and Trustee Securities	£1,570,979 7 2
Other Securities, including short dated Colonial Bonds	352,572 19 4
Loans at call, short and fixed dates	1,923,552 6 6
Bills Discounted	1,566,854 12 0
Interest due on Investments and Loans, and Sundry Balances	13,886,672 2 7
Freehold Premises	47,569 12 3
	136,000 0 0
	<hr/> £17,745,524 5 5

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1907. Cr.

	£ s. d.
To Current expenses, including Directors' and Auditors' Remuneration, Salaries, Income Tax, and all other charges	12,996 4 3
Rebate of Interest on Bills not due, carried to New Account	100,843 1 9
Six Months' Dividend at the rate of Ten per Cent.	
per annum, free of Income Tax	£42,333 3 0
Balance carried forward to next account	12,751 3 4
	55,084 8 4
	<hr/> £68,923 14 4

	£ s. d.
By Balance brought forward from 31st December, 1906	10,723 9 9
Gross Profits during the half-year	158,800 4 7

£168,923 14 4

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1900, we certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with.

We have examined the Securities representing Investments of the Company, those held against Loans at call, short and fixed dates, and all Bills discounted in hand. We have also proved the Cash Balances, and verified the Securities and Bills in the hands of Depositors. The foregoing Accounts agree with the Books, and we are of opinion that the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs as shown by the Books of the Company, except that it does not state the amount of Investments and Bills placed as security against Deposits.

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**CROWN REEF GOLD MINING CO.,
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BALANCE SHEET at 31st March, 1907.

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Capital Account		
120,000 Shares of £1 each.	120,000 0 0	
Share Premium Account	116,187 0 0	
Premium on Shares sold.		
Revenue Account—		
Revenue appropriated for Working Capital	£30,000 0 0	
Revenue appropriated for Purchase of Freehold	3,638 3 9	3,638 3 9
Reserve Account—		
Appropriated for Working Capital	27,121 17 6	166,947 1 3
Reserve Fund—		
Amount as per last Balance Sheet	156,839 3 7	186,947 1 3
Increased during year	6,044 17 11	162,884 1 6
Revenue Appropriation Account		
Balance of sums set aside for additions to Machinery and Plant, &c.	3,069 9 3	
Unappropriated Interest and Dividends	2,031 2 2	
Interest and Dividends received from Investments		
Sundry Creditors—		
On account of Wages, Stores, &c.	17,778 8 2	
Transvaal Government—		
Gold Profits Tax for the Year	22,704 14 0	39,883 2 1
Unclaimed Dividend Account—		
No. 14	50 5 0	
No. 29	27 0 0	
No. 30	45 0 0	
No. 31	36 0 0	
No. 32	236 10 0	
No. 33	332 9 6	
No. 34	496 13 0	
Dividend Account No. 35	1,223 17 5	
Declared 12th March, 1907.	130,000 0 0	
Coupons unpaid	565 8 0	
Gold in Reserve	133,789 5 6	
At 31st March, 1907.	27,561 17 10	
Profit and Loss Account	74,881 17 4	
NOTE.—There are further Liabilities on account of Shares subscribed for in other Companies as under, viz.—		
Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, Lim., £2 2s. per Share uncalled on 2,486 Shares	£5,320 12 0	
Co-operative Exchange Yard, Lim., £64 per Share uncalled on 37 Shares	2,368 0 0	
Rand Mutual Assurance Co., Lim., £9 per Share uncalled on 253 Shares	2,277 0 0	
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Lim., 2s. per Share uncalled on 497 Shares	198 16 0	
	£10,064 8 0	
	£731,047 16 11	

Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Mine Property Account—			
Paid to Vendors 56,000 Shares of £1 each	56,000 0 0		
Paid to Vendors, Cash	28,000 0 0		
Purchase Price Freehold of Mynpacht, Cash	26,000 0 0	380,000 0 0	
Property Account—			
Purchase Price of Claims (43)			
Mill Site	2,587 0 0		
Purchase Price of Claims (6)			
Turffontein	325 0 0		
Purchase Price of Freehold of Claims (9) Turffontein	3,638 3 9	6,550 3 9	
Water Rights—			
60-Stamp Mill Water Right..	500 0 0		
120 "	3,000 0 0		
	3,500 0 0		
Reservoirs and Dams—			
Mill Water Dam	3,714 17 10		
Mill Tailings Dam	861 7 2		
Mill Service Reservoir	1,154 10 7		
Mine	628 18 7		
Machinery and Plant—			
120-Stamp Mill and Water Service	57,614 17 11		
Electric Plant, Power and Lighting	13,001 1 5		
120-Stamp Mill Cyanide Works	16,284 17 7		
Tram Plant, Surface and Underground	7,131 11 0		
Workshops Plant	3,700 15 10		
Rock Drilling Plant	11,383 5 8		
No. 1 Main Shaft, Hauling and Pumping Gear	1,595 0 0		
No. 2 Main Shaft, Hauling and Pumping Gear	800 0 0		
Incline Shaft Head Gear, Stone Breakers, Engines, &c.	12,042 4 1		
Carts and Harness	222 1 9		
Assay Plant, Surveying Instruments, Piping Mill to Mine and Sundries	1,083 14 2	124,789 9 5	
Buildings Account, Old	21,486 12 2		
Mine Development—			
Main Shaft and Cross-cuts	24,261 1 9	186,947 1 3	
Carried forward	£10,064 8 0		

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Buildings, New—			
Brought forward	£86,947 1 3
Balance in Suspense as per last Report	11,301 13 10		
Amount expended during Year	831 14 1		
Less amount redeemed during Year	28,133 7 11		
Stores and Materials—			
On Hand	8,577 2 11		
In Transit	958 16 7		
	9,535 18 6		
Investments—			
Rand Mutual Assurance Company, 253 Shares of £1 each and £2 10s. premium.	885 10 0		
Co-operative Exchange Yard, Lim., 37 Shares of £80 each (£16 paid up).	592 0 0		
Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, Lim., 2,486 Shares of £1 each (12s. paid up).	2,237 8 0		
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Lim., 497 Shares of £1 each (12s. paid up and 25s. deposit).	919 9 0		
Less written off to Working Costs	918 9 0		
	1 0 0		
	3,715 13 0		13,245 15 6
Sundry Debtors and Payments in Advance			
Cash—On Call, bearing Interest	59,792 12 8		4,574 2 2
On Fixed Deposit and Interest to 31st March, 1907	103,434 1 6		
At Bankers' and in Hand	4,085 10 2		
	160,313 4 4		253,250 15 6
Gold Consignment Account	92,937 11 2		
Reserve Fund Investments—			
£128,071 31 2d. British 2½ per cent. Consols	109,344 15 6		
£1,850 Rand Mines Lim., 5 per cent. Debentures	2,202 9 0		
£3,200 Mexico Electric Trams 5 per cent. Debentures	3,332 0 0		
£20,550 13s. 8d. Johannesburg Municipal 4 per cent. Stock	29,795 9 3		
National Bank of South Africa, Lim., Fixed Deposit	12,184 7 0		
Interest Accrued on above to 31st March, 1907	156,760 0 7		
Amount received not yet invested	4,263 4 3		162,884 1 6
	£731,047 16 11		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT from 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907.

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Mining Expenses		
Development	2,325 6 7	
Reduction Expenses	91,403 5 11	
General Expenses	12,827 19 5	
Less Sundry Revenue	1,627 0 5	
Amounts written off for additions to Plant	6,461 8 2	
Less Machinery Sold	1,361 18 2	
	5,099 10 0	
To Head Office Expenses—		
Salaries	4,807 10 0	
Stationery, Printing, Advertising, Postages and Telegrams	869 7 3	
Directors' and Auditors' Fees	3,109 15 0	
Licenses	539 10 0	
Sundry General Expenditure	1,813 14 1	
Working Profit for the Year	372,675 12 11	
	£538,257 19 3	
To Dividend Account	264,000 0 0	
Appropriation Account	45 0 9	
Re Purchase of Freehold		
Donations	165 5 0	
Profits Tax—		
For the Year	22,104 14 0	
Less Adjustment on last year's tax	772 8 0	
	21,332 6 0	
Balance carried to Balance Sheet	74,884 17 4	
	£360,424 9 3	

Cr.	£ s. d.
By Gold Account	£38,257 19 3
By Balance brought down	272,675 12 11
Balance at 31st March, 1906	79,045 9 9
Freehold Revenue	70 5 10
Interest	6,373 16 1
Head Office Sundry Revenue	1,322 18 8
Share Warrant Fees	83 5 3
	£360,424 9 3

S. C. STEIL, Secretary.

W. BUSCH, Director.

H. P. ROGERS, Director.

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers of the Company, and certify that, in our opinion, the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the whole of the Company's affairs as shown by the Books.

C. L. ANDERSSON & CO., Incorporated Accountants, Auditors.
THOS. DOUGLAS, Chartered Accountant.

Johannesburg, 17th May, 1907.

20 July, 1907

The Saturday Review.

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Subscriptions must be for £100 nominal or any multiple thereof.

Payment in full may be made on allotment or on any instalment date under discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The South Manchurian Railway Company, Limited, is a Joint Stock Company created under Imperial Japanese Government Ordinance No. 142, promulgated on 8th June, 1906, to take over and operate the Railway between Tairen (Daly) and Changchun, including branch lines, also the line between Antung and Mukden, and the rich coal mines of Funshun and Yentai. The Company took over the Railway and the Mines from the Government on the 31st March of this year.

The Tairen (Daly) and Changchun line and its branches (having an aggregate length of about 508 English miles) are held under a Concession from the Imperial Chinese Government for a term of about 75 years still to run, but the Chinese Government has an option to purchase these Railways on payment of the outlay upon them. This option, however, cannot be exercised for a considerable time after the due date of the Bonds.

The Antung-Mukden Railway (about 188 English miles), is held under treaty stipulations between JAPAN and CHINA for a term of 78 years from 2nd December, 1905, after which this Railway may be sold to the Imperial Chinese Government at a price to be determined by arbitration.

The Capital of the Company is 200,000,000 Yen (about £20,000,000), divided into 1,000,000 Shares of 200 Yen (about £20) each. The Imperial Japanese Government received from the Company and retains 500,000 fully paid Shares.

Of the remaining half of the Share Capital, 100,000 Shares were issued and subscribed in Tokyo. Of these Shares to 100 per cent. has been called and paid up.

The President, Vice-President and Directors of the Company are appointed by the Imperial Japanese Government. The Government supervises the business of the Company and appoints a Special Comptroller for this purpose.

The Coal Mines, which are situated at Funshun and Yentai, are considered to be extremely valuable. At Funshun seams of 50 and even over 100 feet of Coal of excellent quality have been found. The output is expected to reach 4,000 tons a day, for which there is a ready market.

The proceeds of the Bonds will be devoted to the following works, viz.:

Converting the Tairen-Changchun line and branches from 3 ft. 6 ins. gauge to 4 ft. 8 1/2 ins. gauge, which is identical with the gauge of the Chinese and Korean Railway systems.

Converting the light Railway from Antung to Mukden into a permanent line identical with the other parts of the system.

Providing a new and complete equipment of locomotives and rolling stock.

Doubling of the track between Tairen (Daly) and Suchatun, a distance of about 236 English miles.

Harbour works at Tairen (Daly).

Water Transport and Works connected with Collieries, and Warehouses, &c.

The conversion of the whole system from narrow to broad gauge, similar to that of the Chinese and Korean Railways.

An agreement has been concluded for the conveyance of through traffic over the Siberian Railways and the South Manchurian Railways, via Harbin, which will take effect at an early date.

The Imperial Japanese Government is of opinion that the Railways will be the means of developing the great resources of Manchuria, to the benefit of the trade of all nations on an equal footing, and that the return on all the Capital invested in the South Manchurian Railway Company, Limited, will be satisfactory.

The Bonds have the unconditional guarantee of the Imperial Japanese Government both as to interest and repayment of principal. This guarantee will be stated in each Bond, which will be countersigned on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government.

The Bonds are repayable within 25 years from the date of issue, but the Company has the right at any time after 10 years from the date of issue to redeem at par the whole, or part by drawings on giving six months' notice, or by purchase if the price is below par. Should the Antung-Mukden line be sold as above mentioned, the proceeds of sale will be applied towards redemption of all present and future issues of bonds of the Company which may then be outstanding.

The payment of the Coupons and repayment of the Bonds will be made in London, at the office of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C. Partial redemption will be effected by drawings in the usual manner at the office of the said Bank.

Scrip Certificates to Bearer, with Coupon attached for a full half-year's interest, payable 5th February, 1908, will be delivered as soon as possible in exchange for the Allotment Letters and Bankers' receipts, and Bonds will in due course be delivered in exchange for Scrip Certificates.

Application must be made on the enclosed form accompanied by the deposit of £5 per cent.

If no allotment be made the deposit will be returned in full, and if only a portion of the amount applied for be allotted the balance of the deposit will be appropriated towards payment of the amount due on allotment.

Failure to pay any of the instalments at due rates will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

An official settlement and quotation on the London Stock Exchange will be applied for in due course.

Certified translations of the Law and Ordinance creating the South Manchurian Railway Company, Limited, the Bye-laws of the Company, and of the Law and Ordinance authorising the issue of this Loan, with the guarantee as to principal and interest by the Imperial Japanese Government, also of the Treaty of December, 1905, and Additional Agreement between Japan and China, may be seen at the office of Messrs. Alfred Bright & Sons, Solicitors, 15 George Street, Mansion House, E.C.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the issuing Banks, viz: Parr's Bank Limited, 4 Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C., and Branches: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 31 Lombard Street, London, E.C.; The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., and from Messrs. Panmure Gordon & Co., Hatton Court, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

LONDON, 19th July, 1907.

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN LONDON.

Japanese Embassy, London, 19th July, 1907.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Imperial Japanese Government have agreed and undertaken to guarantee the due payment of principal and interest of the proposed issue of Bonds by The South Manchurian Railway Company, Limited, as stated in the Prospectus dated 19th July, 1907, and that such guarantee will be embodied in the Bonds which will be countersigned by me on behalf of the Imperial Government.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) JUTARO KOMURA,
His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

To
PARR'S BANK, LIMITED,
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED,
LONDON.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

TO BE RETAINED BY THE BANKERS.

Subscriptions must be for £100 nominal or any multiple thereof.

South Manchurian Railway Company, Limited,

Five per Cent. Sterling Bonds for £4,000,000

At 97 per Cent.

Principal and Interest unconditionally guaranteed by the Imperial Japanese Government.

To PARR'S BANK, LIMITED,
THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED, London.
I/we request that you will allot to me/us £..... of the above Issue in accordance with the Prospectus dated 19th July, 1907, upon which I/we have paid the Deposit of £..... being at the rate of Five per Cent., and I/we engage to accept the same, or any less amount which you may allot to me/us and to make the remaining payments thereon in Cash in terms of the Prospectus.

Ordinary Signature

(Note.—Please write distinctly.)

Name (in full)

(Add whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss, and Title if any.)

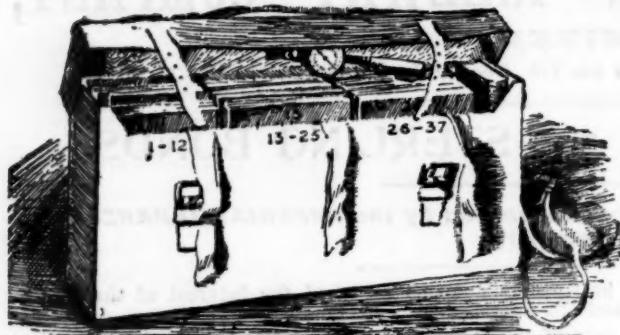
Address

July, 1907.

All Cheques to be made payable to Bearer and crossed " & Co."
A separate Cheque must accompany each application.

95

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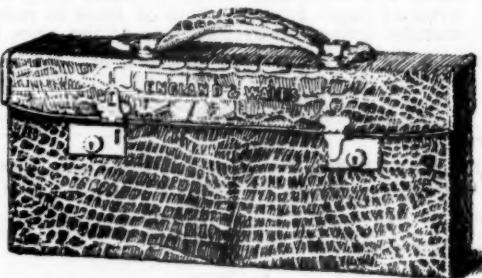


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Important Announcement.

The Proprietor of "THE CROWN," the Court and County Families Newspaper, having acquired the copyright and all other interests in "COLLECTING," the Editor begs to announce that in future all the features that have distinguished "COLLECTING" as an Art publication are incorporated in the Art Section of "THE CROWN."

The amalgamation is effected with the issue of "THE CROWN" for July 20th, and all communications intended for "COLLECTING" should in future be addressed to the Art Editor of "THE CROWN,"

35 SACKVILLE STREET, PICCADILLY, W.

"THE CROWN" is *par excellence* the newspaper for the country house. It contains the principal news of the week and articles on a greater variety of subjects than any other paper, all splendidly illustrated.

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